

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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

43251547769-22

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

European Youth Forum

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

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

2.6 Please specify

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

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

2.8 Please specify

(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?

The key global trends suggested in the question are interlinked, making it difficult to state which is the most important. The response to these trends and challenges must therefore also be interlinked.

Nevertheless, demographic challenges will have a particular impact on the future of development and on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While Europe and certain other regions of the world are dealing with the challenges of an ageing population, many parts of the world, including a significant number of EU partner countries, have a predominantly young population. This difference across different regions of the world brings specific challenges to development and the 2030 Agenda and requires both strong interregional dialogue and intergenerational relations.

Increasing migration flows, as a result in part of demographic challenges, as well as due to conflict, rising inequalities, and the increasing impacts of climate change, will pose particular challenges to the future of development policy, as well as to internal policies of the EU and its Member States. As a result of climate change there will most likely be a large increase in the number of environmental migrants. Without ambitious agreement on prevention, adaptation and mitigation measures, environmental and economic migration risk leading to social conflicts and civil unrest and have a high potential to destabilise already fragile states. Young people are and will continue to be particularly affected conflict, climate change, inequalities and increased migration flows.

Within this context of numerous challenges for development and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, another challenge which can compound the others is the shrinking space for civil society and the backwards trends in democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms and opportunities for democratic and civic participation. These trends, evident in many countries around the world, including within the EU, negatively affects youth organisations and the spaces they have to self-organise and to participate in decision-making processes. This can only have a negative impact on development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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?

First and foremost, greater policy coherence is required among EU policies, both internal and external, including development policy. This policy

coherence should have sustainable development at its heart and as its goal. This is particularly important in the context of the challenge of climate change, for example. Combatting climate change must be a core part of EU development policy, but must also be achieved through changes to EU internal policies, including through addressing unsustainable consumption and production. Current patterns of consumption and unsustainable production processes are jeopardising the future for young people and future generations and this must be addressed clearly through EU policies.

With regard to demographic challenges, harnessing the opportunities of this can only be possible through the promotion of intergenerational relations and solidarity and support to the role of young people in development. EU development policy needs to better target young people to harness the opportunities of that demographic. Opportunities for young people, including through support to quality education and decent employment, as well youth political participation, are crucial. However, young people should be seen as more than beneficiaries of development cooperation and recognised for their role as development actors. Young people must be included in the design and implementation of multiannual implementation plans and country dialogue, including through local youth-led organisations.

Participation of youth organisations in EU policy-making is necessary to harness the opportunities that young people provide but also due to the demographic trends within Europe, where young people are a minority population in most EU Member States. Clear and transparent procedures for civil dialogue and meaningful and structured stakeholder involvement in all EU policy areas is crucial, particularly in the context of shrinking space for civil society in many parts of the world.

In relation to the challenge of migration flows, EU internal policies will need to reflect the reality that migration flows are only going to increase, particularly in relation to young people. Migration flows must be considered across all EU policies and policies within EU Member States, including in youth policy, social policies and macroeconomic policies. A rights-based approach and commitment to ensuring fundamental freedoms and combatting all forms of discrimination is key in this regard.

Minimising the negative effects of the trends identified above can only be possible if the the EU truly embraces the concept of sustainable development and places society and the environment at the heart of policies. This requires moving towards a global economy works for society and the environment, and not the other way around. This cannot be achieved if economic growth continues to be seen as an end in itself. We need to reconsider whether growth, and the current way it is measured through GDP, can continue to be the driver of international development, given that its leads to devastating environmental changes and global social injustice. The Agenda for Change has the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth at its heart. This should not, however, be seen as the main objective of EU development policy. Rather than an end in itself, growth is a means, and only one means, to achieving the well-being and protecting the rights of all people and all parts of society and cannot therefore be pursued at any cost.

Measures targeting the reduction of inequalities and favouring social inclusion should take precedence. This is also true for EU internal policies.

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

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

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

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

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

Addressing links between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement requires the putting in place of coherent policies. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are interdependent, and this is recognised in both frameworks. The Lisbon Treaty already includes a requirement for Policy Coherence for Development and this should have a much greater bearing in the development of EU policies. However, it is also necessary to go beyond this obligation and work towards policy coherence for sustainable development, recognised in the 2030 Agenda as a key means of implementation for sustainable development. All EU policies should be assessed ex-ante and ex-post for their impact on social, environmental and economic sustainability and their contribution to sustainable development, both in partner countries as well as within the EU. This needs to be guaranteed during the policy-making process and should be used by EU institutions, as well as Member States.

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?

First and foremost, the EU must take the 2030 Agenda seriously as a policy framework and process for both internal and external policies. Without this, a balanced and integrated approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development is unlikely to be achieved. Despite strong leadership during the negotiation process for the 2030 Agenda, the EU has so far not shown strong leadership when it comes to preparing for implementation.

The 2030 Agenda needs to be addressed in a coherent way across all EU policy areas and sustainable development should be considered the overarching goal of EU policies. The 2030 Agenda and sustainable development need to be at the core of the political debate within the EU, with strong political will and political support at the highest level within the EU institutions and all Member States, as well as strong coordination within and between all EU institutions.

The EU must work towards an overarching implementation plan, to be developed with civil society and stakeholders, including youth organisations, and based on all three pillars of sustainable development and the interlinkages between them. Work towards this must begin as soon as possible if the EU does not want to be left behind in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and progress towards sustainable development.

Moving forwards with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires investment and a balanced EU budget focused on supporting environmental sustainability and social cohesion. Commitment to the achievement of sustainable development must be evident in all policy areas and all pillars of the Multiannual Financial Framework. The 2030 Agenda must feature heavily in the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework, as well as the preparation of the next financial framework.

A balanced, integrated and serious approach to the 2030 Agenda within EU internal and external policies requires less focus on economic growth and greater attention to social inclusion, human rights, participation in policy-making, politics and democratic life, and more support to and space for civil society. Environmental aspects and impacts must also be given greater importance. Greater and consistent attention to the impact of all EU policies on young and future generations must also be present to strengthen the balanced and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of all dimensions of sustainable development.

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

In addition to properly integrating the 2030 Agenda and targeting the achievement of all dimensions of sustainable development, the European Youth Forum believes EU development policy must explicitly target youth. This is particularly important given the population dynamics in many of the EU's partner countries, but is also important in countries where young people do not represent a large majority. Youth was not seen as a particular target or actor of development in the EU's Consensus on Development and, in 2016, this must change.

Young people around the world continue to be marginalised and left out of democratic life in many cases, and face additional barriers to accessing their rights. The development of quality, cross-sectoral youth policy should figure as part of the EU's policy dialogue with Member States and funding must target youth policy or national youth strategies, as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The creation of opportunities for young people, including through support to quality education and decent employment, as well youth political participation, are crucial. More than beneficiaries, however, young people and youth organisations must be recognised within the EU's development policy framework as actors of development that play a hugely significant role in the social, economic and environmental development of their countries.

The role of youth organisations in sustainable development cannot be overstated. Youth organisations around the world nurture personal and professional development, contributing to intercultural understanding, community development, peace building, active citizenship and democracy. Youth organisations within the EU are committed to actively contribute to sustainable development by providing development education, citizenship education and education for sustainable development, breaking down barriers between young people, engaging in dialogue at all levels, changing consumption patterns in younger generations and leading by example in intergenerational dialogue.

The experience, expertise and role of youth organisations is vital for sustainable development and for EU development policy. Greater participation of youth organisations in the design of the EU's development policies and programmes is therefore required. It is important to realise that the participation of youth organisations may require additional resources and different outreach mechanisms than those used for general civil society participation. Many youth organisations struggle to guarantee the space and support required for them to fulfil their vital role in sustainable development and it can be difficult for youth organisations to secure the financial means necessary to carry out their activities. Funding mechanisms for EU development policy need to recognise the role and specificities of youth organisations.

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?

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)?

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?

The EU must anchor its development policy in a rights-based approach and one that ensures non-discrimination and equality of outcomes. Young people are often victims of structural inequalities within political and economic systems and this needs to be addressed by increasing attention to young people and their participation within EU development policy. Multiple discrimination must also be addressed as no one group of the population is homogenous and it is important to recognise the intersectionality of identities and multiple discrimination that people face.

EU development policy should place the reduction of inequalities at its heart, rather than support for the stimulation of economic growth. Investment in social inclusion and social cohesion and support for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are necessary.

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?

Conflict and threats to peace present a severe challenge to the achievement of sustainable development, to human security and to human dignity. This challenge, and the links between peace and sustainable development have been recognised within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through its Goal 16. In this context, EU development policy can better address these links, make a stronger contribution to the security of people and contribute to addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility by recognising and supporting the role that young people can and should play in peace building and in the prevention of violent extremism. Young people comprise a group largely affected by conflict, but also a force for preventing conflict and building peace. UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, adopted in December 2015, clearly recognises the need for youth participation within the building and maintenance of peace. The EU must work towards and support the implementation of this Resolution as part of its development and external policies, together with its implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

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?

(6) The actors: making it work together

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To strengthen its partnerships with other stakeholders, the EU needs to strengthen civil dialogue, with clear and transparent procedures, and meaningful and structured stakeholder involvement. Decision-making processes should be opened up to all stakeholders. This should entail all stakeholders working together with the institutions as partners in developing, implementing, reviewing and evaluating policies, at all levels and all stages of the process, on the basis of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Democratic, representative youth organisations must have a dedicated space in any mechanism for civil society and stakeholder engagement, and the EU must

recognise that different mechanisms for outreach, as well as building of capacity and additional resources, might be required for the participation of youth organisations as compared to other sectors of civil society and more traditional sustainable development or development cooperation partners. NGOs working towards the reduction of poverty and inequalities as well as the promotion of human rights within the EU must also be involved in partnerships with stakeholders to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Mechanisms for stakeholder engagement should be created or strengthened at national level in EU Member States and youth organisations must be guaranteed a space within any structures, including sustainable development councils or commissions, at national level. Member State governments should approach the independent national youth councils in their countries to ensure their engagement in participation structures and in decision-making around sustainable development.

In the EU's partner countries, EU Delegations need to ensure partnership with and consistent outreach to civil society and other stakeholders regarding the role of EU development policy in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in partner countries. Youth organisations at local and national level and local community-led organisations must be included in this partnership and outreach, again with the recognition that this might require a different approach than for development NGOs or other more traditional development partners. The diversity of voices and perspectives is not optional and must be guaranteed. Youth participation in programming must be guaranteed, regardless of the sector of intervention, as all policies and programmes have an impact on young people and their right to participation in decisions that affect them must be upheld.

In the context of the development cooperation, the EU Policy Forum on Development currently provides a framework for dialogue with civil society and local authorities. The European Youth Forum participates in the Policy Forum on Development but there is currently no dedicated space for youth organisations from other regions of the world within the Policy Forum. This leaves the European Youth Forum in the difficult position of being the only voice for young people and youth participation in dialogue around EU development policy. The European Youth Forum cooperates with Regional Youth Platforms in other parts of the world and believes that representatives of these platforms should also be invited to participate in the Policy Forum to ensure that adequate attention is given to youth and issues of importance to young people. In sustainable development processes within the United Nations, youth is recognised as a group that should participate in sustainable development processes, with a dedicated space for children and youth within the Major Groups and other Stakeholders engagement mechanism. The EU should ensure that the same is true within its dialogue and decision-making processes regarding development policy and sustainable development.

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

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 played a strong role in the negotiations for the 2030 Agenda but has not shown enough leadership in terms of the implementation of the Agenda and progress towards sustainable development. The EU needs to be showing leadership if it wants to be perceived as a strong international stakeholder and a partner for sustainable development.

The EU can strengthen relations with other countries and with the UN system through taking a leadership role in the global and regional follow-up and review mechanisms, including the High-Level Political Forum, and in ensuring accountability on the implementation of the Agenda and progress towards sustainable development. To do this, the EU will need to move rapidly towards setting out its own implementation of the Agenda through an overarching framework and working towards review and reporting, in a transparent way together with civil society and other stakeholders.

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

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

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

(7) Keeping track of progress

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

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

Evidence and analysis from different policy areas and existing policy reviews and research should feed into the EU's review on the 2030 Agenda. Strong coordination with Member States will also be necessary in this regard.

Civil society and other stakeholders should have a clear and structured role in the review process, including the gathering and analysis of evidence. The integration of evidence and analysis from civil society should be present in the review process, with opportunity for stakeholders to feed into the official review process and space to present shadow reports or alternative reviews. Data from alternative sources, including from citizens and civil society organisations, should be analysed and integrated.

The EU should lead the way in disaggregation of data to ensure that implementation of the 2030 Agenda is truly targeting marginalised groups and reaching all sectors of society, particularly those who suffer multiple discrimination. The EU must disaggregate data by age, as well as by all other factors identified in the global indicator framework discussions as a minimum, going beyond this where necessary and possible.

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?

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

EU policy dialogue with partner countries should take into account the regular reviews on progress of the partner countries. Reviews may indicate a need for possible reorientation of EU development priorities in partner countries, on the basis of dialogue with the partner country governments and civil society, although it must be clear that in no way should EU development funding be conditional on partner countries' progress towards the 2030 Agenda and its goals. The participation or otherwise of civil society stakeholders within the reviews on progress should also be taken into account, together with any shadow reports or alternative reviews conducted by organisations in the countries or their partners. EU policy dialogue with partner countries should also take into account the reviews on progress of the EU and its Member States at the United Nations, including on their progress towards policy coherence for sustainable development.

Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu
