

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?

64689102746-48

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

World Vision Brussels & EU Representation

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.

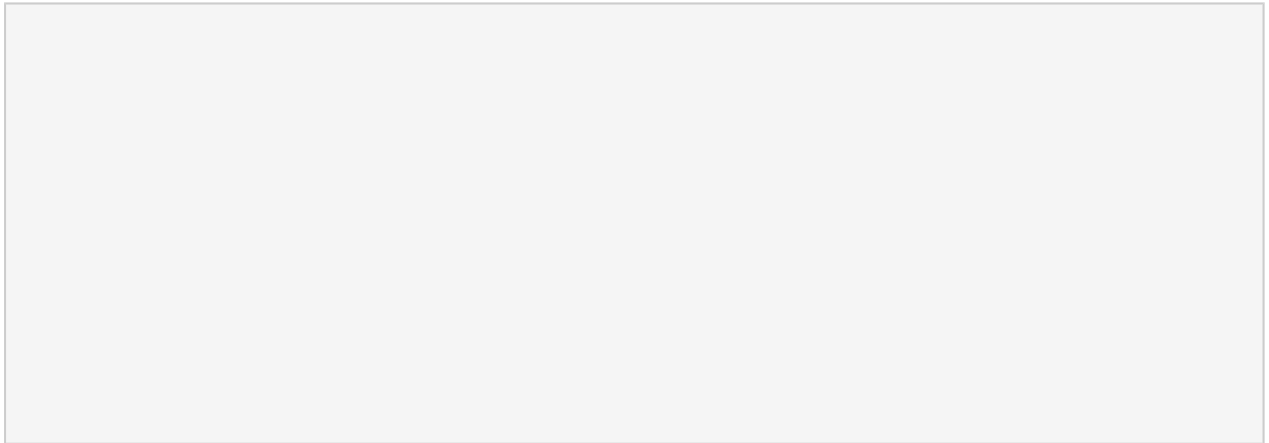
The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level, 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?

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?



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

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

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

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

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

The EU and its member States must continue supporting the LDCs in dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation, and with the growing impact of climate change. This includes encouraging smallholder farmers to practice climate smart, agro-ecologically sound farming approaches that help to reverse environmental degradation, reduce dependence on chemical inputs, increase biodiversity and improve the reliability and adequacy of agricultural livelihoods, a necessary condition for improved food security and nutrition.

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?

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

The revised European Consensus for Development must reinforce the commitment from 2005 that the aim of EU development policy and funding, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), is the eradication of poverty, inequality and injustice and the promotion of human rights. These development aims must under no circumstances be compromised by other political objectives such as migration management, security or foreign policy agendas

The new EU policy framework should set out a stronger approach to fragility, resilience, conflict, security and be a vital aspect of policy coherence between EU development cooperation and other areas of EU external action (See 4.4).

The European Consensus for Development must put a strong emphasis on fighting inequalities. It implies that the EU should, in line with Agenda 2030, leave no one behind, meaning leaving no child behind. Specific commitments to children and young people have been made through the adoption of Agenda 2030 (See 4.5).

Finally, The EU will not reach the SDGs' 169 targets without partnering with CSOs, children and young people, Faith Based Organisations, local authorities and promoting cross-sector partnerships (See 6.1).

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?

Greater consistency with development policy is required especially in the following areas:

- Irregular migration and violent extremism (These issues will continue to demand responses from the EU. Each intervention must be weighed against its potential risks to long-term stability.) The EU should continue to foster better coherence and consistency in the field of Migration /trafficking in human beings (THB)/smuggling of migrants/asylum policies as outlined in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019).
- The new EU Global Strategy "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe - A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy" also needs to be fully aligned with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, especially in the field of security, fragility, resilience and peacebuilding.

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 would have greatest value-added as a development partner by promoting a human rights based approach to development with a strong focus on children's rights as outlined in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The EU could promote these rights, including the right for children to participate, to have access to health, to development, to education, to be protected and cared for, through its political dialogues and human rights dialogue with partner countries. The same could apply for Accession Agreements and Trade Agreements.

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 should commit and work towards fighting inequality and leaving no one behind.

The European Consensus for Development must put a strong emphasis on fighting inequalities. It implies that the EU should, in line with Agenda 2030, leave no one behind, meaning leaving no child behind.

Specific commitments to children and young people have been made through the adoption of Agenda 2030. Such commitments include, but are not limited to: ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for [...] human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence [...] (target 4.7); eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (target 5.2); eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (target 5.3); ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (target 16.2). These commitments to ending all forms of violence against children should be a central piece of the Consensus for Development, as outlined in the EU Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy which embodies the objectives of promotion, protection and fulfillment of children's rights.

If no children are to be left behind, the EU should recognise the key role that children and young people, along with of the most vulnerable and marginalized people and communities, play as citizens and actors in development. They should be empowered and decision makers should be held accountable to them. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) can also play an important role in supporting children and young people to reach out to local, sub-national, national, regional and global decision makers to improve service delivery and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals targets.

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

The new European Consensus should set out a stronger approach to fragility, resilience and conflict and be a vital aspect of policy coherence between EU development cooperation and other areas of EU external action.

Tackling human rights violations, climate change, inequality and extreme poverty, injustice, supporting inclusive and transparent democratic

governance and a strong civil society, providing opportunities for youth should be at the heart of the EU's vision of security.

The revised Consensus should explicitly refer to human security (i.e. a people-centred concept focusing on the security of the individual and society at large rather than just state security, which focuses on the territorial integrity of the state). It should provide for more effective joint action – including through more funding – on conflict prevention and sensitivity and peacebuilding

Addressing the security-development nexus in fragile and conflict-affected contexts should be underpinned by a long-term commitment which prioritises the establishment of the rule of law and democratic institutions, and addresses the underlying drivers of conflict and fragility, including justice and reconciliation issues, while recognizing and empowering women, children, youth and marginalised groups as key agents of peace. The EU's action must also be oriented towards overcoming the root causes of poverty and containing violence and specifically ending violence against children, in line with target 16.2 of the SDGs.

In order to address the root causes of conflict and fragility and contribute to security and resilience, the EU and its Member States must put people at the center of EU policies and interventions, notably by supporting and engaging with citizens, including women, children and young people, local communities, faith leaders and grassroots-level CSOs in order to generate policies which are context-sensitive and serve long-term stability.

In conflict-affected contexts, conflict analysis which fails to take into account local and marginalised voices, such as those of women, children and young people, etc. can miss the multiple drivers and competing narratives of conflict, and reinforce patterns of exclusion.

The adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security is an urgent call to action for the development, humanitarian and peacebuilding communities. The EU should endorse UNSCR 2250 and set up participation, protection and prevention mechanisms that enable women, children and young people and other marginalised groups to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute / conflict resolution.

The EU should recognise faith communities as collaborators and co-designers of humanitarian response and development programmes and build on existing strengths, networks and ways of working of local Faith Based Organisations.

Finally, the EU and its member states should adopt frameworks such as the Comprehensive School Safety Framework that provides uninterrupted learning in safe environments for children, while maintaining sensitivity to children of different genders, age, and abilities. Also, in order to translate the European Commission's commitments made when adopting the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction into action, the EU and its Member States should increase funding for Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

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?

There is an urgent need for the EU to invest more (political and financial) resources in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights, including children most basic rights to be free from violence. Late reactions can lead to more suffering and requires more funding afterwards in terms of humanitarian and development response than prevention and peacebuilding does.

The revised Consensus for Development must prioritise supporting sustainable development and long-term peace in countries affected by instability and conflict. Only through this type of approach will the EU be able to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. In addition, it is crucial that this approach frames EU external action as a whole. It could otherwise counter EU development and peacebuilding objectives and reverse impacts in partner countries.

There is a risk that the EU's migration agenda and crisis response could be narrowly focused on increasing short-term security. Increasing inclusion and accountability will help to address the root causes of migration and enable citizens, especially the most vulnerable (i.e. women, children and youth, people with disabilities and those who are most affected by violence) to engage in the planning and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.

The migration-development nexus must be integrated into the revised EU Consensus on Development and clearly be assured a priority as a case of enforcement of the EU obligation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, and Human Rights obligations.

(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?

New modalities of financing, including from the private sector, need to be recognised as additional and complementary to, not a substitute for, more traditional donor sources of ODA (and debt relief) – at least, in the medium term – and the critically important area of domestic resource mobilisation. All EU Member States should, therefore, re-commit to meet both the 0.7 per cent ODA and the 0.15–0.20 per cent commitment to the least developed countries (LDCs).

Private financing is subject to the same principles of aid and development effectiveness as public financing. Given the significant changes that are currently unfolding in development financing, new 'rules of the game' need to be defined as to what now constitutes not only good practice in development, but also good practice in financing development. Such principles would clarify both priority areas for ODA spending (for example, the universal provision and protection of basic services and rights, social protection floors and/or other areas where the risk profile is not compatible with some private financing models) and also the acceptable parameters of new financing approaches such as blended and leveraged financing (including policy coherence, additionality, assessment of both comparative and specific impact, transparency and accountability, and safeguarding against tied aid).

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?

As 193 UN member States, including all EU Member States, have committed to leave no one behind, vulnerable children need to be reached wherever they are from and wherever they live. Since each country or region has specific development challenges, each partnership should be country-specific and context sensitive.

Also, violence against children exists in all countries and all EU Member States should therefore prioritise the promotion, protection and fulfillment of children's right, in line with EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

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?

Civil society is a crucial actor in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring the participation of citizens and reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable people. The EU and its Member States should thus ensure participation and engagement with civil society in design, implementation, monitoring, review and accountability of policies. The new European Consensus should recognise the key role that women, children and young people youth and other marginalised groups play as citizens and agents of change in development and should prioritise ways of supporting the empowerment of, and accountability to, them. Their participation in decision

making processes that affect their lives will be key to ensure ownership and successful implementation of Agenda 2030 at the local, sub-national, national, regional and global level. Social accountability processes can build or strengthen dialogue between citizens, including children and young people, and decision makers and ensure the latter are held accountable for their promises under the SDGs. A study conducted in Uganda by Oxford University in 2011 has shown that in 100 school using social accountability approaches, test scores rose by an average of 9%, pupil attendance increased by 8-10% and teacher absenteeism dropped by 13%. Implementing such programme costed only 1.50\$ per student.

Faith based organisations and faith leaders should also be recognised and supported by the EU and its Member States. Faith actors have the ability to transcend political and geographic divide to realise development outcomes. During the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, where 20% of new Ebola infections occurred during burial of deceased Ebola patients, trained pastors and imams delivered Ebola prevention messages and convinced their followers to adopt safe and religiously acceptable alternatives. This change in burial practices was vital in halting the spread of the disease and build community trust. In Malawi, engaging with faith leaders has enable CSOs and communities to positively impact school drop off rate and reduce violence against children, including child marriage.

The EU and its member States could seek partnerships with local authorities to ensure that services reach those most in need and that people have an opportunity to participate in monitoring and review of the 2030 Agenda at local level.

Finally, cross-sector partnerships (between government, business (and other private-sector actors), civil society and/or UN agencies), are one of the primary modalities through which the innovation and scale required by the SDGs can be created and delivered.

Businesses will be an essential contributor to the effort to achieve a sustainable end to poverty. Business's impact, both good and bad, on the international development space is multi-faceted and wide reaching. At its simplest, a healthy and responsible business sector is critically important to the economic development of states, increasing the national resource base and the potential to improve the well-being of citizens. These benefits can be very quickly eroded, however, if companies do not fulfil their basic societal responsibilities, which include the following

- ensure that their operations and investments 'do no harm' in a country. This includes the need for careful mitigation of the particular risks associated with interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts;
- comply with international standards and voluntary codes of good practice (as well as with legislation);
- respect universal human rights (regardless of country context), including those of the child;
- take responsibility for practice within their supply chains, including addressing child labour issues.

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

As mentioned above (6.1), companies must fulfill basic societal responsibilities when contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

cross-sector partnerships (see above), are one of the primary modalities through which the innovation and scale required by the SDGs can be created and delivered.

However, in order to strengthen cross sector partnership, including with the private sector, three issues must be addressed:

(1) accountability

A key driver for improving accountability is the need to address the current low level of trust among different sectors of society. When trust is low, risks (e.g. related to reputation and performance) are perceived by stakeholders to be higher, and organisations are less likely to collaborate. Stronger accountability mechanisms can, in the medium term, help to bridge the trust gap. Three modalities of accountability are critical for cross-sector partnerships to flourish:

- i. the internal accountability within a cross-sector partnership (i.e. between partners)
- ii. the external accountability of the cross-sector partnership, to citizens, donors and other stakeholders
- iii. the individual accountability of each partner.

The most vulnerable groups being served by these partnerships, including children where appropriate, should be meaningfully engaged in partnership design monitoring and evaluation. Social accountability approaches can support this (See 6.1).

(2) effective in-country multi-stakeholder issue based platforms to catalyse partnerships

To achieve the ambitious targets of Agenda 2030 there will need to be far more, and more effective, cross-sector partnerships. This is where multi-stakeholder platforms to catalyse collaboration and partnerships have an essential role to play. They provide a systematic approach to getting partnerships to the necessary scale. The EU and its Member States should provide technical and financial support to existing and new platforms.

(3) capacity building to be 'fit to partner'

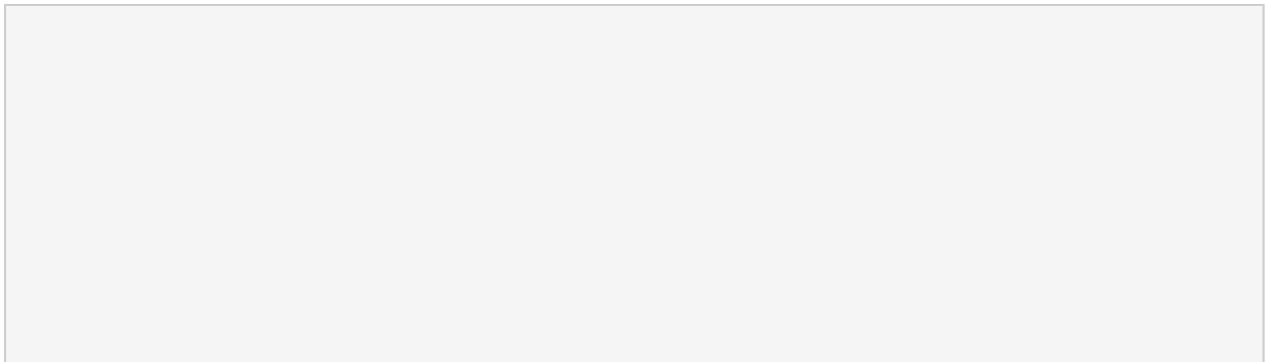
Whether in regard to multi-stakeholder consultations or cross-sector partnerships, capacity broadly – specifically in relation to managing power asymmetry – is lacking across all major sectors (business, civil society, governments and the UN) and at all geographic levels. The unfortunate

consequence is that companies (with good intentions) can struggle to find local or national partners who are willing and able to work with them to make sense of how to leverage their business activities to maximize sustainable development returns. Contrary to popular belief, progressive and well-intentioned businesses prefer to deal with governments and other stakeholders who have strong capacity; it is only in partnerships where all partners are able to bring their best to the table that game-changing opportunities can be realised. The EU and its Member States should therefore provide technical support to existing or new platform so all stakeholders are “fit to partner”.

The EU should continue providing finance mechanisms to appropriately mitigate risk - ie enable investments at the base of the pyramid and in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in particular which will impact the most vulnerable children and communities which would otherwise not be made. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, the EU and its Member States should encourage the private sector to use their influence to advocate for pro-poor government policies and practices - as well as acting as role models in their own behaviour.

Finally, the EU and its Member States should invest in Monitoring and Evaluation/learning to ensure that these approaches are benefitting those left behind and require mandatory sustainability reporting for companies above a certain market capitalisation.

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?



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 EU must lead on coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. By promoting universal values but also by considering the social and economic context of different countries, the EU can ensure harmonisation and a comprehensive development of national implementation plans.

The EU should also support partner country governments by facilitating learning exchanges in which to address challenges and exchange lessons learned and good practices.

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?

It is paramount for the EU to involve all stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs, as referred to in the answer to question 6.1.

Children and young people will play a key role in the implementation the SDGs. In 2012, it was estimated that more than 50% of the world's population was under 30 years of age. It is today's children and young people who will live the SDGs. The EU must support the creation of spaces and forum at local, subnational, national, regional and even global level for the meaningful participation and voices of children and young people in ensuring accountability for the delivery of the SDGs.

Faith based organisations (FBOs) and faith leaders should also be recognised and supported by the EU and its Member States. They have the ability to transcend political and geographic divide to realise development outcomes. The EU and its Member States should engage faith communities in the approach and design of humanitarian response and development programmes. Such involvement will imply a new approach to improving the faith-literacy of the secular community (development actors, INGOs, UN agencies, donors) but also improving the faith community's literacy of development cooperation. Finally, the EU and its Member States should build on existing strengths, networks and ways of working of local FBOs.

Ways to work with all partners exist, including via multi-stakeholder issue-based platforms which can catalyse partnerships between all stakeholders (see 6.1 and 6.2). However, particular attention must be paid to ensuring the meaningful engagement of those most vulnerable groups being served, those at the bottom of the pyramid.

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?

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?

Governments will be the first responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. National targets must be set up to meet the 17 goals. If citizens, including children and young people, are to own these targets, they need to be engaged and to hold their governments to account for the promises they made when they adopted the SDGs.

Changes at the local level can take place if communities, including children and young people, are involved in gathering and sharing data about their experience and in planning, monitoring and reviewing services and programmes. Strong mechanisms for participatory monitoring must be put in place and supported by the EU and its Member States to ensure optimal service delivery.

Participation of children and young people in decision making processes that affect their lives will be key to ensure they are effective, relevant and sustainable. Meaningful participation implies tackling financial, social, linguistic, physical and other barriers that limit and constrain children's and young people's engagement with decision-making and accountability processes, by investing in access to relevant, age-appropriate information in a language children and young people can understand and in formats they can access.

The EU and its Member States must strengthen the capacity of public officials, internally and externally, to listen and respond to children and young people and develop the capacity of institutions to meaningfully engage with them.

The EU and its Member States should therefore support the creation of spaces at local, sub-national, national, regional and global level for the meaningful inclusion and participation of women, children, young people and other marginalised groups in ensuring accountability for the delivery of the SDGs.

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

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