

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?

235474015095-10

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

Arab NGO Network for Development

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

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network, working in 12 Arab countries with nine national networks (with an extended membership of 250 CSOs from different backgrounds) and 23 NGO members. ANND was established in 1997 and its headquarters is located in Beirut, Lebanon since 2000.

ANND aims at strengthening the role of civil society, enhancing the values of democracy, respect of human rights and sustainable development in the region. ANND advocates for more sound and effective socio-economic reforms in the region, which integrate the concepts of sustainable development, gender justice, and the rights-based approach.

* 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

Beirut, Lebanon

(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?

MDGs had a limited approach, based on a set of Goals trying to address the symptoms of poverty rather than addressing the structural flaws. The MDGs implementation could not ensure a global enabling environment for development by addressing systemic challenges including the reform of the trading system and how it should support development efforts instead of being an obstacle in front of productive development. It could not address the debt crisis that is preventing from mobilizing resources for development, could not alter the policy of aid, nor ensure the technology transfer. But most importantly the efforts to establish peace and security based on the respect of human rights were left aside; as well as the reform of the global system, including the UN and the IFIs towards more participation and democracy. In this context, with regard to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and revising the Consensus, the European Union should not proceed with identification priorities as “most important” and focusing only on some global challenges and overshadowing some others. This would restrict the added value the EU has as a global power. The EU should rather take the review as an occasion to adopt and implement a new and comprehensive development paradigm that integrates and considers the inter-relatedness of all these challenges. This requires paying equal attention to structural, economic, social, demographic, geographic challenges and others; that generate inequalities and affect the countries capacities and options. The EU should consider the fact that failures of the MDG well reflected that achieving the goals is not just a matter of funding and commitments, rather it is an issue of patterns and policies at the macro-economic, financial and social development levels. Therefore the development model the EU supports should be a reformed trading system and a shift from the decade-old conundrum “Liberalization for the sake of Liberalization” to a “Strategic Integration Concept”. Inclusive, sustainable and redistributive growth as well as the enhancement of productive capacities would be at its center.

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

EU's adherence to Lisbon Treaty and full commitment Article 21 of the Treaty on EU, principally policy coherence for development is key to ensure that EU policies better harness opportunities and minimize the negative aspects of development challenges we face. Policy coherence requires EU to consolidate the relations between human rights and policies. It should strengthen a human rights framework, in which the universality, indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights are recognized. In this respect, the EU should work and cooperate together along with its southern neighbors and partners (and other developing countries) targeting all the facets of global sustainable development in a consolidated and coherent manner. The EU should adopt its policy-making process as well, taking into consideration the impacts of previous policy implementations (i.e. of trade, security, migration, aid...etc.) at all levels (social, economic, political...etc.). These impact assessments should serve as indicators and benchmarks for future policies and development policy in particular. The EU should moreover base its policies on international human rights commitments, a feature it often promotes yet rarely enforces in its policies. Furthermore, the EU should ensure its commitment towards development effectiveness principles, including national ownership, transparency, partnerships for development and mutual accountability to minimize any negative aspect that development policy can result into.

(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 Agenda 2030 is a universal document, it was the result of the widest worldwide consultations and adopted by the General Assembly of the UN. These global commitments undertaken should be adopted as comprehensive and universal legally binding agenda and not remain as set of goals and indicators to be fulfilled technically. On the other hand, the Paris Agreement has still a way to go to enter into force and become binding for the different involved and concerned parties. These two important agreements should be legally binding and based on the “Common but Differentiated Responsibility” principle. They require strong political will and monitoring and accountability mechanisms. In this regard, apart from the EU’s own steps taken towards Paris Agreement or in SDG implementation, it is vital that all member states and EU financial institutions implementation reflect a strong and coherent stance. For instance, as noted by the EESC within the framework of Paris Agreement, emissions reduction targets submitted by the individual Member States (INDCs) do not correlate with the results achieved in Paris. On the other, the European Banks, namely the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development fossil fuel lending continue in developing countries, being contrary to the EU’s fight against climate change.

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?

Within its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy, the EU should consider the Goals qualitatively and quantitatively to ensure a balanced integration. Rather than evaluating achievements in each Goal separately, complementarity, coherency and coordination should be enhanced among the different EU directorates, member states, institutions and policies. Furthermore, particularly in its external policies, the EU must seek to link and operationalize results-based programmes within the framework of overall national development policies to avoid interventions that do not achieve accumulative effect. Such programs ought to be inclusive, participatory and drawn together with the partner countries. They ought to be based on country needs assessments, so that EU support addresses the development challenges. This should be based on the aid effectiveness principles that the EU adopted and supports. The programmes /projects/support designed in partnership with national authorities and with genuine inclusion of civil society voices and participation, and prioritization of domestic needs, help to integrate diverse sustainable development challenges. Moreover, such action would ensure to achieve real ownership, constructive outcomes, and avoid ad-hoc thematic and disconnected short-term programmes.

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

Development should be people centered. The EU Development policy framework should focus addressing inequality as a main challenge identified during the last years of consultation of the sustainable development agenda. It should favour the development role of the state, the policy space and the engagement of diverse actors. The respecting of the national ownership and the country system will empower them. It helps in building their capacities and enhance their resilience. In this regard, a key element should be brought by this consultation is to ensure full respect to the principles of aid and development effectiveness. Equally important is that the EU development policy framework should be rights-based. These principles include the common but differentiated responsibilities and policy coherence for development (i.e. linking trade and investment policies to development). Each of them is vital to enable efficiency in EU development policy and cooperation.

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?

As the Lisbon Treaty clearly stipulates, EU external action should be based on the principles of its own constitution. These principles notably include democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, policy coherence, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. The European Union is thus expected to be consistent to these above principles in its future development policies. This is why it is imperative for the EU to actively enforce, in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the universal respect for these principles of its own foundation

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 main constitutional values of the EU are: Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. They are well enshrined in the EU treaties. The EU added value is the mainstream these principles in the partnership framework for development. In this regard, the EU is supposed to promote the dialogue with its neighbors about the common challenges and mutual responsibilities.

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 adopt a human rights-based approach when addressing inequalities. It is also important to consider countries' specificities when implementing the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, sustainable development goals are to be universal but the way of attaining them needs to be adapted to different domestic situations. In fact, structural reform policies should take into consideration the previous experiences and based on a comprehensive and objective assessment. There is a belief that these reforms triggered inequalities by increasing poverty and unemployment. Therefore, the EU should undertake a full assessment of these previous policies and refine its development policy in order to allow for more equitable social protection, fair wealth distribution, just taxation, and ensuring full enjoyment to human rights to food, water, decent housing, education and employment for all.

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 spill over effect imposes the need to properly address the political unrest as a root cause of the conflicts. Moreover, political unrest is strongly linked to economic and social deprivations. The continuous security and military threats pose one of the major hurdles for the development process and resources. However, there is a setback in realizing the complex interlinks between peace, security, the respect of Human rights, democracy and development. In this regard, with respect to tackling the nexus between security and development, especially in fragile and conflict-prone countries, the EU must seek to expand the support to other civic actors, not only among the service providers and humanitarian actors, but also to the agents for change and democratization. It should be fostering the link between relief, rehabilitation, development and democratization. It is important to look at the regional dimension of the conflicts as well, including the different factors of turbulence counting the struggle of the Palestinian people for its right to self-determination.

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?

Tackling migration should take into consideration its different motives. Consequently, a comprehensive approach should take into consideration the different aspects of migration. However, a comprehensive migration approach should go beyond the security threats towards addressing the root causes of migration, including humanitarian, political, social and economic, cultural and environmental conditions. In this regard, migration should be introduced as a main indicator in assessing the impact of sustainability and social and economic policies. It is thus important for the EU to further increase and consolidate its partnerships with the southern countries of origin with the highest numbers of migrants. Partnerships should be coherent with all the EU Human Rights and democracy principles, respond to the core challenges triggering inequality and create the enabling environment for development.

(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?

The pillars of the partnership are mainly three: Aid, Trade and Debt. Surprisingly, the Agenda 2030 suggests a significant role for the private sector and undermines the other pillars. In fact, the EU is pledging to raise the ODA to .7%, however, the DA within the aid architecture will be reduced in favour of security, defence, humanitarian and inclusion of the migrants (OECD High level Meeting in February 2016). Moreover, the EU considers the private investors as the engine of inclusive growth, decent jobs creation, efficient provision of public services and goods. Nevertheless, the lack of any mechanism enhancing transparency, accountability and responsibility is the main challenge in this regard. Indeed, a legally binding international instrument on business and Human Rights is still missing. In this regard, the role of the EU is expected to champion the protection of the rights and the binding standards from the different threats whether from the public, private or military sectors.

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?

ODA should be about addressing inequalities and development challenges. In this regard, the EU should escape using its ODA in more security-related expenditure and as a tool to pursue its own security agenda. Indeed, given the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) High Level Meeting in February 2016, the change introduced in ODA-eligibility remains a key concern for Southern partners. Considering security, defense, humanitarian and integration of the migrants expenditures as eligible part of ODA would hamper means of implementation for the Agenda 2030.

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

Mobilizing domestic resources should be based on diversifying and enlarging the national economies, enhancing productive capacities mainly in sectors with value added. This should take into consideration the role of the developmental state, decentralization, policy space and transparent and participatory decision making process with an efficient tool for monitoring and accountability. Nonetheless, mobilizing domestic resources through tax reform while creating the environment for investments, promoting tax avoidance neglecting tax evasion and calling for the implementation of strict austerity measures will backfire the efforts and trigger inequalities. The priorities should be fighting corruption, tax havens and illicit financial flows, ensuring the regular reporting of European businesses and private companies on tax payments, along with their impacts on sustainable development and human rights. Finally, it is important to encourage the inclusive and comprehensive social dialogue among the various national economic and social actors and with the partner countries on different key issues including on tax systems and their reform

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

Experiences had showed that the income is not a relevant tool to measure development and the capacities to implement the agenda 2030; in fact Syria, Tunis, Egypt, Libya and others were considered middle income but failed to address challenges related to inequality. This highlights the priority of the political system and the model (paradigm to follow). In this regards, the main challenge is transparency and governance, as well as the development paradigm to follow. By development paradigm we understand the model that includes the main five pillars of development: Political, Economic, Social, Environmental and cultural.

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

Policy coherence necessitates taking into consideration systemic issues preventing developing countries from their resources and capacities. This includes the global trading system, at the level of both multilateral and bilateral agreements. Investments should take into consideration development priorities and sustainability. They have to avoid flexibility in the labor market and any form of tax avoidance and evasion. Market access should not harm the local productive capacities both in agriculture and NAMA, new and clean technology and knowledge should be shared besides many other important elements. Debt relief is an important step to release resources in favor of development.

(6) The actors: making it work together

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The role of different partners and the partnerships established among them is well recognized within the Agenda 2030. Indeed, CSOs should be perceived as strong partners in designing policies, decision making processes, implementation and monitoring. This should take into consideration the enabling environment for civil society to do so. However, the enabling environment depends on various principles including the non-binding access to resources and to the needed information. The independence of CSO is an important factor for the successful role. Mutual accountability is also a principle that should remain at the highest priority of any partnership. For long the EU (even including in ENP) highlights the importance of these partnerships and brings into new initiatives (i.e. structured dialogue) to strengthen it. One key aspect towards strengthening the partnership is to base it on Partnership principles whereby each partner is identified as equal, the process is transparent and inclusive.

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

The role of private sector, and private sector investment for development should be promoted within a developmental paradigm favoring job creation, re-distributive income and growth within and among the regions and suitability. Private businesses and SMEs should prioritize the local and regional market and adopt transparency measures for effective monitoring of financial flows, transparency in investments, full respect for Human Rights and a prior and posterior impact assessments on all social, economic and environmental levels. Transparent cooperation between businesses, the public sector and the civil society for sustainable development is needed.

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 adopts in its constitution Human Rights and democratic principles as important values. It is needless to say that the EU should push all these actors to respect and fully ensure these principles as well as sustainability. Moreover, the blending mechanisms adopted by these institutions should always respect the full transparency at all levels and consider Human Rights and sustainability as binding standards.

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

During the course of implementation of Agenda 2030, the EU will have several occasions to support its partner countries to develop comprehensive and inclusive national plans. For instance under the ENP framework the Partnership Priorities that will set short and long-term policy reforms for the Southern Partner is one of this. EU should initially respect national ownership and country systems in adopting these development plans whereby the countries can identify their development needs and necessities. To support them in this process the EU should encourage inclusive social dialogue at national level; for instance through preventing and addressing the shrinking space for civil society. This would also necessitate engaging civil society in all policy making cycles, including designing, programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

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?

Improving coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and member states requires promoting the Human Rights and democratic values and highlighting inequality as a main challenge generating poverty and unemployment. Inequality should be understood as a comprehensive phenomenon and at diverse levels including geographical, social, gender, racial, religious... etc.

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

Development cooperation should take in consideration the independence of the partners and their ability to access resources and information.

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?

The EU Joint programming should encourage the adoption of comprehensive national agenda, democratically adopted and nationally owned which gives guidance to the different partners. The initiative should also allow the partners to access new and clean technologies and knowledge.

(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?

Impact assessments undertaken on EU policies (i.e. trade, aid, development) would become a key tool for EU to strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis. Nevertheless, it is important to note that there have been cases where these impact assessments remained as limited exercises, rather than rights-based sustainability impact assessment tools.

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?

Accountability and monitoring will be key in achieving success out of the Agenda 2030. Indeed MDGs failed also because of lack of any monitoring and accountability mechanism. Accordingly, to help to ensure the accountability of all actors involved, transparency and access to information is important in addition to the respect of the mutual accountability principle among all development actors. Moreover, the EU should support an enabling environment for the different development actors. This includes a full commitment of those actors to the “Common but Differentiated Responsibility” principle as well as to the Human Rights

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

First reviews, but voluntary, of the 2030 Agenda implementation took place under the High Level Political Forum. The review was basically based on national self-assessments and implementation of the 17 Goals. Based on this experience, it is important to provide other actors, mainly CSO, with the chance to monitor and to present reports.

There is a need to evaluate the impact of key partnerships established among different actors, including between the EU and its Southern partners.

The EU development cooperation ought to play a significant role in monitoring the commitments to agenda 2030. The EU should encourage its partners to reflect on the systemic aspects as well and those related to governance.

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