

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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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

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- \* 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

### 2.5 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

- \* 2.7 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

## (3) Context: why a change is needed

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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?**

Domestic political stability, respect for rule of law and absence of civil conflict are fundamental to the achievement of all the SDG's, as well as underpinning private sector activity. At a multilateral level, the erosion of commitment to open markets puts at risk the economic gains that have already been secured by emerging economies. Growth and jobs are a global concern that can only be addressed by enhanced respect for global trading rules and expanding rules where appropriate. As noted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda "International trade is an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development"

Health featured in 3 of the 8 MDG's. It is one amongst 17 SDG's, although the targets chosen are broad and will underpin the achievement of other SDG's. The prominence given to health in the MDG's focused attention and delivered great results. There is a risk that this progress will be undermined unless the health SDG is given sufficient prominence. It would be appropriate for the EU to champion the health SDG's, with a particular focus on the provision of baseline services and the establishment of a more robust global health security infrastructure.

The trends of ageing populations and increasing levels of non-communicable diseases are experienced throughout the World and pose a threat to the achievement of the SDG's. The potential of emerging science and technology to address these issues is immense and the EU has considerable expertise in these areas. The EU should encourage increased investments in health systems and work with its innovators to improve technology dissemination.

**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 trade policy is under sustained external criticism, particularly in terms of the impact of trade rules on national "policy space". With fuller evaluation of the impacts of new trade agreements on sensitive sectors (such as healthcare), it should be possible to advance a more balanced dialogues about the impact of trade. EFPIA supports the Commission's proposal that "as FTA's enter into force, the EU will have to make sure that the provisions on trade and sustainable development are implemented and used effectively, by offering appropriate support through development cooperation"

In relation to development policy, the EU should engage more clearly in supporting countries to achieve Universal Health coverage (UHC). This is an area in which Europe has significant expertise both in managing systems and in coordinating action between systems. To give one example, the EU can play an important role in developing an improved global health security architecture.

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

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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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a “revitalized Global Partnership for sustainable development” and commits the partnership to “work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations”. We suggest that the EU can play a valuable role in fostering multistakeholder dialogue within the EU about how the EU can contribute in sectors such as Health (SDG 3).

We welcome the acknowledgement in the consultation document that “development policy will have to engage and identify new ways of partnering with the business in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, industrialization and innovation”. In recent communications with the Commission, we have made proposals about how this discussion could be progressed.

The EU should review the health impacts of climate by drawing on the work that has been done by WHO, including country profiles available at <http://www.who.int/globalchange/resources/country-profiles/en/#U>

#### 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?

The EU should define its expectations in relation to balanced integration, and encourage the development of robust metrics for the assessment of specific interventions. We recommend that the EU recognize the key contribution that can be made to the SDG’s generally by support for the development of resilient, sustainable health systems. Achievement of the health targets will support progress, at a minimum, on goals 1,2,4,5,6 & 16.

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

There is scope for better reporting back on what has been achieved. For example, in relation to the 2011 Agenda for Change, it is not clear to EFPIA to what extent progress has been made in relation to:

- The “scope for the EU to work more closely with the private sector”
- “increasing the leveraging effect that EU aid could have on other sources of finance for development, in particular private investment”
- EU support to “increase access to quality health...services...strengthen health systems...and protection against global health threats”

It is also unclear to what extent the EU Development policy takes advantage of the global commercial networks that link EU companies to third countries

#### 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?

Please refer to question 3.2

#### 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 Global strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and security policy highlights the importance of a “joined-up approach” to its policies and highlights health and research as two sectors of importance in the delivery of the sustainable development goals. The EU can add value in both these areas.

The strategy also points to the existential significance of political instability in the European neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa. We welcome the prioritization attached to support for Africa in the Council conclusions and believe that the primary focus should be on poorer populations both in least-developed and developing countries



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

As noted above, access to health is one of the many aspects of inequality addressed in the SDG's. Universal Health Coverage is the pivotal goal among the health SDG's. We believe that the EU should be working with those who are shaping the UHC response, including the UHC 2030 Alliance and the multilateral institutions. The EU should also ensure that its approach to UHC gives attention to women's and girl's health and ensures equality of access to care.

EU innovation funding also contributes to addressing inequalities through its focus on neglected diseases. There is scope for greater dialogue between the EU and the private sector on how to address common objectives in this area.

#### 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?

EFPIA has no direct expertise in the area of physical security, but would note that the EU can make an important contribution to health security. Communicable diseases are a global concern. In May, this year, it was acknowledged the Commission's High-Level Conference on Global Health security that our existing surveillance systems are failing. The SDG process can focus sustained attention on the need to improve global surveillance, map of R&D and develop new innovation models to support counter-measures.

#### 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?

The Pharmaceutical industry has a long-term record of responding to pharmaceutical needs in the aftermath of humanitarian crises, often through the donations of medicines, via third parties who are expert in the challenges of effectively distributing the medicines. Examples of such programmes can be found at <http://partnerships.ifpma.org/partnerships/by-type>

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

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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?

Existing EU discusses both the use of blended funding and the need for public-private partnerships differentiated to the needs of specific countries. It is not clear to which extent these tools have been deployed in healthcare /research, but they appear highly-relevant in scaling up and sustaining initiatives which have demonstrated benefits.

Innovative financing mechanisms have been used extensively in the pharmaceutical and health sector. These have included advanced purchasing commitments to enable companies to invest in product development and production, differentiated pricing to align prices with ability to pay and performance-based health bonds. The latter in particular may help to overcome scale-up barriers. Non-financial contributions from the private sector – knowledge, time , other resources may also be extremely important.

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?

EFPIA endorses the points made in the Council conclusions, regarding prioritizing ODA towards LDC's and fragile states.

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

EFPIA considers that the health SDG's and particularly UHC cannot be achieved without adequate funding of healthcare. The EU should adopt clear metrics related to this point when assessing the coherence with which beneficiary countries are addressing sustainable development.

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

EFPIA supports a differentiated approach between countries and believes that middle-income countries should take on greater responsibility for supporting global objectives and increasing domestic resources for development. The Pharmaceutical industry has experience of a range of different partnerships that have development-related objectives. We would be pleased to share this experience with the Commission.

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

The EU should examine the scope for improved collaboration with the private sector and other non-governmental stakeholders. The EU has extensive experience of seeking internal policy coherence and of seeking stakeholder input to policymaking. While not all experiences have been successful, this experience could be drawn on to propose models to other countries. The EU should also ensure that any impact assessment regarding EU policy developments in related policy areas such as trade are open to external review and of high quality. We endorse the concept of “ODA-plus”, as described in the 2015 PCD report.

## (6) The actors: making it work together

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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?

It will be important to identify shared objectives and clear roles and responsibilities, which are achievable and within the scope of each partner. The EU will also need to consider how to structure its interactions with the different stakeholders and how to map the different contributions that are being made.

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

Strategic use of development funding may enable investments that would not otherwise be made. Political endorsement of private sector action is also important. The Private Sector must be recognized as an equal partner with governments and Civil Society if the SDG's are to be achieved.

## 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 should monitor how its own approach to policy-making and funding allocation can be aligned with global initiatives in areas like UHC and health security. It may useful to convene stakeholder conferences as part of the policy review cycle.

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

EFPIA believes that the EU has strong expertise in health systems development, public-private collaboration, innovation policy and policy coherence that should be leveraged in its support.

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?

No comment

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

In line with presidency conclusions, it is important to focus resources and take a more inclusive approach to sustainable development

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?

It would be interesting to explore whether the level of exchange between member states on their initiatives in relation to UHC can be enhanced and integrated with discussions with stakeholders.

## (7) Keeping track of progress

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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?**

There would be benefit both in ensuring better mapping of the activities taking place and in encouraging alignment with agreed accountability frameworks

**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?**

A structured sectoral EU dialogue involving all stakeholders would be useful.

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

The EU should consider dedicating some resources to monitoring and analysing progress and encourage partner countries to develop national stakeholder dialogues



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