

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

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

Deborah Martens, Lore Van den Putte, Yentyl Williams, Jan Orbie

- 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

This contribution is written on behalf of the Centre for EU Studies (CEUS), University of Ghent, Belgium. Our input is related to our research on the EU's trade-labour linkage (both in bilateral agreements as well as in its General System of Preferences (GSP) scheme) and the civil society mechanisms established under the new generation of EU trade agreements.

* 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

Belgium

(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.

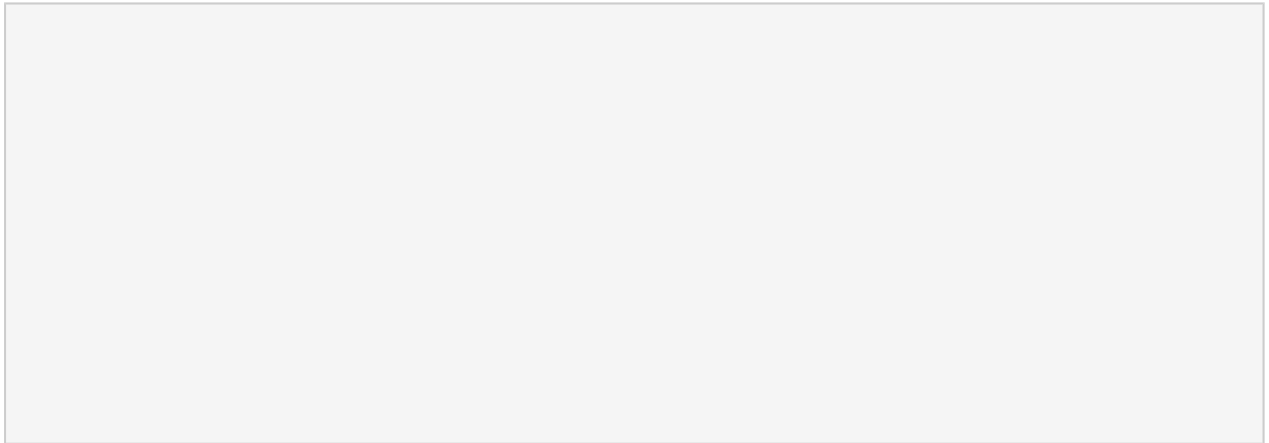
The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level,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



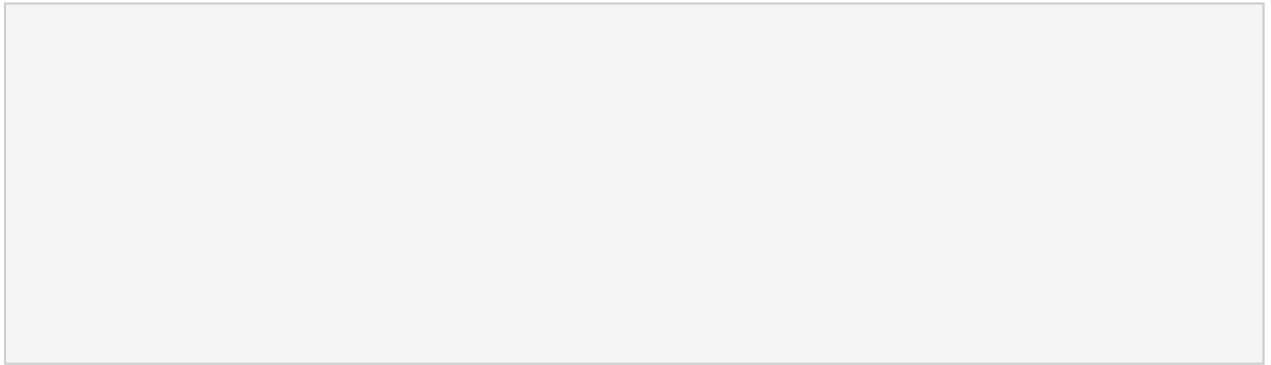
(4) Priorities for our future action: what we need to do

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?



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?

In bilateral trade agreements the EU advances labour as well as environmental norms under the heading of a chapter dedicated to trade and sustainable development. While the advancement of people, planet and profit in a balanced manner can only be encouraged, in some cases the EU should reflect more on whether combining labour and environmental norms in the current form is the most effective. In our own research, we have noticed that disentangling labour and environmental norms in relation to certain countries could solve two specific problems. First, disentangling labour and environmental norms in the civil society mechanisms (i.e. the domestic ('domestic advisory groups') and transnational ('civil society forum') mechanisms) could enhance more substantial discussions on both topics. One suggestion would therefore be to set up two separate civil society mechanisms, one for labour and another one for environmental issues. In doing so, civil society could discuss these issues substantially before merging them under the heading of sustainable development. When they are treated together, there is a risk that one topic becomes overshadowed by the other. In some cases, we have noted that labour issues in particular, tend to be a more sensitive issue this results in it being avoided on the agenda. Second, this disentanglement would address coordination problems both in the EU and in third countries. During our field research in Peru and Colombia, we noticed that no direct contact was established between the European Commission and the ministries of labour and environment in both countries. Rather, discussions only take place between the European Commission and the country's ministry of trade, which has to coordinate and filter the messages it receives from the labour and environment ministry. In this regard, officials in the ministries of trade in both countries in interviews suggested that labour and environmental norms have a very different nature. By treating labour and environmental issues separately, direct contacts would be made with the right interlocutors in the countries concerned, increasing the coherence and effectiveness of the mechanisms. All in all, we would therefore plea for a tailor-made approach depending on the country concerned, building on the expertise of the EU Delegations.

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

Overall, when it comes to labour issues, we would propose stronger institutional ownership within the European Commission's structure and the Delegations, as well as more institutional cooperation between the different DGs. Both in Brussels and the EU Delegations in Peru, Colombia, Costa Rica and Honduras, labour issues seem to fall in between the cracks of trade and development. On the one hand, the advancement of labour issues in itself is a development issue, but people working in cooperation sections in some cases seem reluctant to take the issue up. This is also evident from the very few cooperation projects that the EU undertakes to advance labour issues. Their colleagues working in the trade divisions, on the other hand, in some cases seem to lack interest and in most cases expertise on labour issues. Our interviews revealed that for many people working on trade the chapter on sustainable development is 'the odd one out'. Indeed, a considerable number of stakeholders did not seem convinced that trade agreement should be used as a leverage to advance respect for labour rights. The creation of a new position of a labour attaché in EU Delegations could address this loophole. Additionally, DG Employment overall seems to be insufficiently involved and lacking the capacity to follow-up on these international issues. One particular example concerns the budget foreseen for the implementation of the chapter on sustainable development under the Multiannual Indicative Programmes for Peru and Colombia. While some (although a limited) budget is foreseen to advance respect for labour rights, this goal does not seem to be a priority for the people expected to design and implement the programmes. The Trade For All strategy addresses this problem and argues that development cooperation should provide appropriate support to make sure that the chapter is implemented and used effectively. The European Commission's institutional organisation has repeatedly been referred to as problematic, diluting the willingness and ability to collaborate across the relevant DGs to address development issues. As more flexibility is needed, this structural hurdle requires particular attention.

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?

The improvement of labour norms has an enormous potential to contribute to the eradication of poverty and transform developing countries. The EU, having an attractive market of 500 million consumers and an extensive trade agenda, should use its existing trade instruments more effectively to pursue the Agenda 2030 and in particular SDG 8 'to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'. The EU's trade policy could become an important leverage for development, which would be in line with the commitments made in the recent trade strategy 'Trade for All'.

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)?

One particular issue the EU could explore more to advance sustainable development in third countries is its expertise on social dialogue. Its experiences with tripartite dialogue could be exposed more towards third countries, which have expressed their interest during our research. The prominent role of the European Economic and Social Committee in the civil society mechanisms set up under the sustainable development chapters, with both members taking part in the meetings as well as the EESC providing secretarial services, seems to be a step in the right direction. The transnational civil society meetings could be a promising opportunity to bring together the relevant organisations and foster (social) dialogue. The institutionalisation of social dialogue could also be used for a more effective implementation of sustainable development. The civil society meetings could be used to identify priorities for cooperation in third countries. In addition to the identification of priorities, these meetings can function and be promoted as flexible communication channels between EU civil society, third country civil society and/or governments to collaborate or share expertise.

For example in the context of the official civil society meetings of the EU-Central America Association Agreement, a workshop is usually organised to present and discuss several topical issues by civil society actors. Even though these workshops are far from perfect (e.g. the agenda setting and invitations), they create an additional opportunity for civil society to learn from each other and identify issues to collaborate.

Another example is the Cariforum-EU Consultative Committee which played an important role in raising awareness on the Cariforum-EU Economic Partnership Agreement amongst CSOs in the Caribbean region. Thereafter, the Committee was able to hold meetings, identify priorities (opportunities and challenges) and promote effective dialogue and exchange. However, without third country partner CSOs being aware of the agreements in place, the EU cannot effectively pursue the aims of the social dialogue.

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?

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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

The EU is a strong proponent of free trade and free trade agreements. These agreements inevitably create winners and losers. ODA could be allocated to support the 'losers' to adapt to the new competitive environment. One particular example concerns support for Colombian milk producers. However, more research is needed to estimate whether this initiative was effective.

In the case of Cariforum, the EU needs to practice Policy Coherence for Development, especially with regards to blacklisting Cariforum countries as tax havens, while simultaneously benefiting from the situation. Caribbean economies are small but open economies which are heavily dependent on international trade, remittances and FDI. A more coherent engagement with the Caribbean financial sector, including on the issue of bank de-risking, could lead to the mobilization and maximization of sustainable development finance that these economies need to keep themselves afloat.

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?

To come back to the example of social dialogue, if workers and employers can agree on better working conditions, these improved working conditions should lead to a raise in living standards which will then contribute to sustainable development. Such dialogue can be fostered by the EU both through targeted development projects or through existing civil society mechanism in EU trade agreements.

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

More and more former cooperation partners are becoming upper middle income countries (MIC). As such, official development aid is phasing out. At the same time the EU is concluding trade agreements with such countries. Given this reality, the use of a trade agreement as a leverage (both in the pre-ratification as well as in the implementation phase) to advance sustainable development in third countries is even more compelling than it was in the past. In the implementation of the commitments in the chapter on trade and sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda could explicitly be pursued by the trade partners.

While a significant number of countries are graduating to MIC status, the EU should be aware not to 'throw the baby out with the bath water' in terms of phasing out ODA. MICs will face increased pressure, with less traditional support, to achieve non-negligible development goals. The EU should continue to show its solidarity with these countries and work in true partnership to tackle unique problems of development which are facing both EU and MICs alike. Furthermore, the EU should also pioneer a combination of indicators beyond GDP e.g. a combination of GDP and HDI. The universal nature of the Agenda 2030 means that we must work together and we must learn from each other. In this sense, the EU needs to learn from MICs and developing countries in general, in order to enhance the possibility of achieving all that the Agenda 2030 can offer.

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?

Four specific recommendations stand out. First, the EU should continue to include provisions on civil society mechanisms in its trade agreements. Even though it seems that neither the design nor the functioning of these civil society mechanisms are unproblematic, we would advise the EU to push even more for social dialogue institutions to be set up under its trade agreements. In the aforementioned example of the Cariforum EU Consultative Committee, despite the challenges it faced to establish itself (based on lack of knowledge and organisation amongst other), it has proved to be a major benefit for the stakeholders involved.

Second, when it comes to the implementation of the civil society mechanism provisions, the EU should put more effort to ensure these are functioning effectively both within third countries as well as in the EU. More assertiveness is needed. Again, with reference to the Cariform-EU Consultative Committee, the European Economic and Social Committee, with the proactiveness of certain members, were assertive and driven to raise awareness amongst Caribbean civil society, which was an important foundational step in getting the social dialogue off the ground. While it is clear that the EU is reluctant to interfere in the internal social dialogue structures of third countries, arguing this approach is part of its particular cooperative approach, still more can be done to make sure that civil society in third countries are effectively consulted on the sustainable development chapters. The roadmaps on engagement with civil society drawn up by EU delegations provide a potential vehicle in this regard. In Peru for example, the involvement of civil society in trade policy was identified as a priority issue. As such the meetings on the implementation of the roadmap, which would involve also member states, could provide a means to foster domestic civil society dialogue on issues related to trade and sustainable development. Additionally, in the Cariforum case, there is a broader need for assertiveness with regard to the ACP Secretariat, which has not delivered on their ACP Civil Society Road Map and thus, this can severely impact and hinder regional CSO engagement.

Third, the EU could pursue more complementarity in monitoring the implementation of sustainable development chapters in the partner countries. More specifically civil society mechanisms for the agreements with specific countries as well as the monitoring groups in the European Parliament working on these countries, could coordinate their work to a larger extent to ensure complementarity. As had been mentioned earlier, more communication and coordination is also needed within the European Commission, especially between DG Devco, DG Trade and DG Employment. In this regard, the Cariforum EU Consultative Committee has developed excellent working relationship with the European Parliament, who was instrumental in pushing for the first Consultative Committee meeting and to-date this proves to be functioning well. Fourth, in the long run, the EU should reflect on alternative ways of organising the civil society mechanisms. Currently it seems unfeasible to continue to set up new civil society mechanisms for each and every trade agreement. This seems to be a burdensome task both for the European Commission as well as for European civil society organisations. This requires substantial resources and this is only expected to increase in the future. Therefore, the EU might consider alternative ways of organising these meetings. In this regard the EU could draw some inspiration from the US' NAC (National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of US Trade Agreements). In this example, a fixed number of civil society actors discuss the implementation of labour provisions of all US' trade agreements. Another alternative could be to cluster meetings of different domestic advisory groups. In addition to the 'vertical' meetings now organised per trade agreement, the EU could consider to hold horizontal thematic meetings. These would address for example the matching development issues identified as priorities or topics such as child labour or extractive industries and would involve civil society organisations of different trade partners.

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

6.3 How can the EU strengthen relations on sustainable development with other countries, international financing institutions, multilateral development banks, emerging donors and the UN system?

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

As mentioned before the EU could provide more support for an effective functioning of civil society mechanisms in third countries. Third country governments could then use these mechanisms to gather civil society input for the design as well as the implementation of such national plans. In this way, the EU would be leading by example. This is a general principle that should be aimed for in order to become a more modern global actor, while maintaining the best endeavour to 'best support partner countries'.

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?

The EU should coordinate with its own member states (as well as international organisations like the International Labour Organisation) in order to bundle resources to target specific problems in third countries, a practice almost non-existent at the present time. This coordination should take place at three levels, being the identification of specific shortcomings, the design of targeted projects as well as the implementation thereof. Regarding the latter it should be noticed that several EU member states, such as the Netherlands, are currently focusing on labour rights in their external policy. Their experience and information should be pooled at the European level, for instance by creating the new position of labour attachés in EU Delegations. A more positive example is Costa Rica, where the European Commission has co-funded an ILO programme for the training of judges and labour inspectors. It is also noteworthy that under the Cariforum-EU EPA, some of the first disbursements of funding went to the ILO project to establish a formal bipartite forum between the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) and the Caribbean Employers Federation (CEC), of which the EU has already expressed the success of this particular social dialogue. However, simultaneously there was another ILO-Caribbean project, for the Caribbean Network of Artisans, which could have also benefited from the 'bundling' of resources, expertise and knowledge.

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

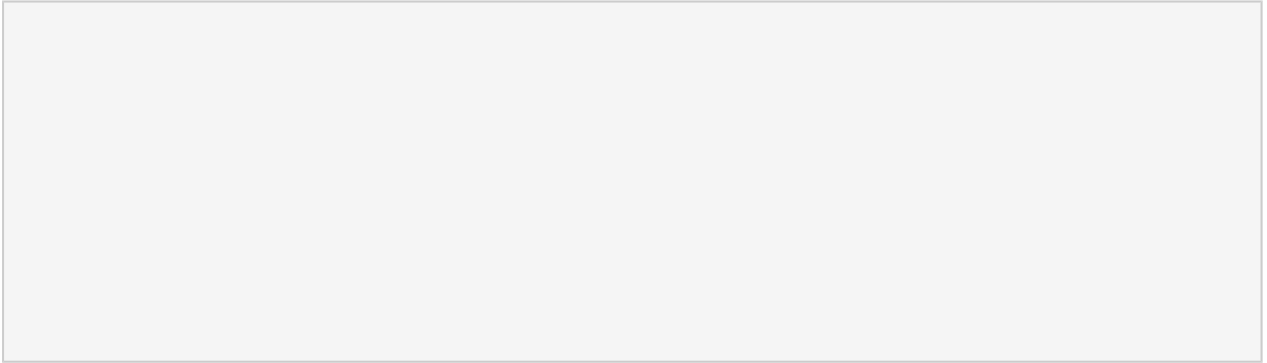
6.7 What further progress could be made in EU Joint Programming, and how could this experience be linked with other EU joined-up actions in supporting countries' delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

(7) Keeping track of progress

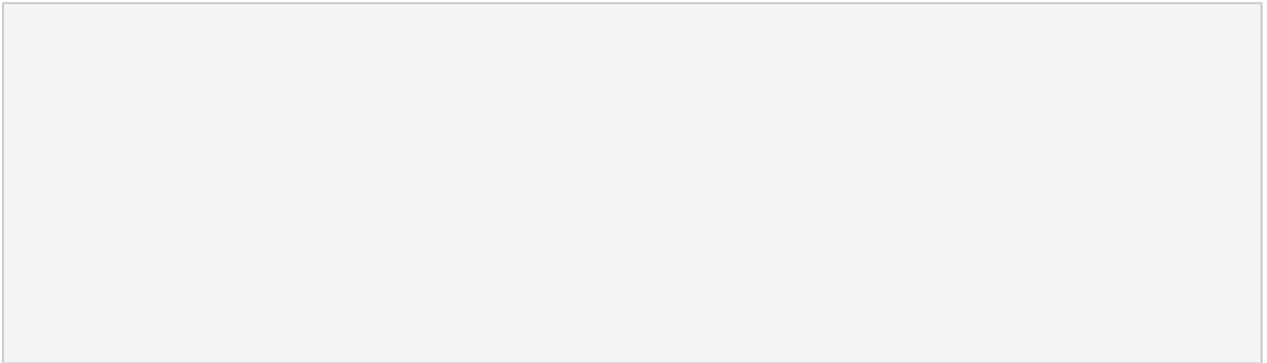
The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting up of a Sustainable Development Goal monitoring system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

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

7.2 How can the EU help to ensure the accountability of all actors involved in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the private sector? How can the EU encourage a strong and robust approach to the Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda from all actors?



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



Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu
