

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

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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

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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

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2.3 Name (entity or individual in their personal capacity)

UN OHCHR-UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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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

UNITED NATIONS AGENCY (OHCHR)

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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

GENEVA / SWITZERLAND

(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?

It is difficult to isolate one trend as the most important, given their complexity and inter-relatedness. However discrimination and increasing global inequalities, within and between countries, and shrinking civil society space are surely among the most fundamental. Horizontal inequalities are drivers of violent conflict and, according to recent IMF and OECD evidence, undermine the sustainability of growth. Discrimination and social exclusion marginalizes population groups from the labour market, education and health services and political life, and can have very significant economic costs. A flourishing civil society, backed by freedoms of information, expression, association and assembly, is essential for a healthy society and a bulwark for accountability and improved public policy-making.

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?

Address discrimination, inequalities and increased civil society space as priority objectives in EU development policy. Engage politically, using the international human rights framework (to which all countries are subject) strategically for this purpose, through a human rights-based approach that underscores the equal relevance and status of all internationally recognized human rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including constructive and substantive engagement with the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development. The latter is indispensable for the legitimacy and impact of this approach with many development partners. Ensure that all significant external actions and policies of the EU are informed by human rights impact assessments, thereby ensuring policy coherence and avoiding adverse impacts on marginalized population groups.

(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?

In the 2030 Agenda (paras 10, 18 and 19) and Accra Agenda for Action, governments have specifically undertaken to implement their commitments in accordance with existing international law and human rights. The Paris Agreement likewise affirms human rights. These provisions provide solid normative foundations for a human rights-based approach for the EU in addressing the inter-related commitments in these three global agreements. Trade and investment, intellectual property, and climate actions, all influence the ability to realize human rights and establish an enabling environment for development. The EU, like all States, has committed to international cooperation to ensure the realization of all human rights by all and this should be the ultimate objective of external action.

None of the three global agreements will be implemented successfully without active contributions from, and respect for human rights by, the private sector. The internationally accepted normative framework governing the State-private sector relationship in this context is the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights ("Guiding Principles"), based on the State's obligation to "protect" (regulate) human rights, business' responsibility to "respect" human rights, and an obligation to provide redress where rights are violated. The Guiding Principles were explicitly recognized in the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. It is strongly arguable that the most important contribution that the private sector could make to achieving the SDGs is to "respect" human rights throughout the value chain (SHIFT, 2016 forthcoming). More specific implications and recommendations in this connection are offered in response to question 5.1 below.

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's development policy could refer to the significant emerging empirical evidence of the links between the economic, social and environmental pillars, and highlight the missing "fourth pillar" of Rio+20 (governance), undergirded by human rights. The human rights commitments in the 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Agenda for Action and Paris Agreement, referred to above, provide the normative foundation for enhanced policy coherence based on all countries' pre-existing human rights obligations.

The relationship between inequalities and economic growth has been well explored in recent economic literature and IMF staff working papers (e.g. Berg and Ostry), as has the relationship between horizontal inequalities and violent conflict (World Bank, WDR 2011). Investing in equality can be transformational. The World Bank has estimated, conservatively, that lost productivity from domestic violence has cost countries between 1 to 2 per cent of GDP. The benefits of an inclusive approach to water and sanitation services have been estimated as high as 7 per cent GDP in some countries, according to the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program. Approximately 15% of the global population are living with a disability. Excluding persons with disabilities from the work force can cost economies as much as 7% GDP, according to the ILO. In the US, affirmative action programs by major companies Walgreens and Verizon have generated a 20% increase in productivity and a 67% return on investment, respectively. And a recent World Bank study found that the economic costs of homophobia can range up to 1.7% of GDP in some countries. These kinds of price-tags from reputable sources can easily be flipped over into positive messaging, to foreground the EU's development policy, undergirded by a human rights-based approach.

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

See answers above and below.

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?

Trade, investment and intellectual property policy should be consistent with the EU's and partner countries' existing human rights obligations, including with regard to the role and responsibilities of the private sector. Human rights impact assessments for trade and investment agreements should continue to be carried out. For guidance see http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-59-Add5_en.pdf.

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)?

Human rights, given the strong EU legislative framework and relatively strong national legal, policy and institutional frameworks in many EU member States. The EU's toolkit on a Rights-Based Approach, adopted in 2014, is a welcome first step towards operationalising a rights-based approach by the EU in its development cooperation with third countries. In this regard, development cooperation efforts should build on the objectives of this Toolkit.

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?

Build the EU development policy on the available empirical evidence on linkages with economic and social development, but underscore the legal and moral commitments to which the international community has subscribed in the 2030 Agenda (SDG Goals 5, 10 and elsewhere) and international human rights instruments.

The 2030 Agenda provides a valuable, universal framework to “leave no-one behind” and “reach the most excluded first.” However, as the 2030 Agenda stipulates (paras 10, 18 and 19), the SDGs should be interpreted and implemented in line with existing international human rights law and state obligations. The consequences of this for development policy include:

- i. Aim specifically for the objective of reducing inequalities (beyond SDG target 10.1 which focuses only on the bottom 40%);
- ii. aim to address underlying structures and root causes of discrimination and exclusion, and to achieve substantive equality (in outcomes) not only opportunities, in line with a human rights-based approach;
- iii. address indirect, as well as direct, discrimination, and recognize that under international human rights law, the elimination of discrimination is an immediate obligation of states (not a progressive obligation subject to resource constraints);
- iv. target discrimination on all the grounds covered by international human rights law which, beyond the listing in SDG target 18.17, include language, religion, political or other opinion, sexual orientation and gender identity, minority status and caste;
- v. invest in the collection of disaggregated data on all the grounds of discrimination prohibited under international treaties;
- vi. support new approaches to data collection, statistical and analytical capacity that are grounded in international human rights norms and principles;
- vii. exercise leadership in the implementation of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data;
- viii. support those working to ensure that new targets and indicators measuring civil and political rights (Goal 16, conflict-related deaths, the protection of human rights defenders, and the existence of national human rights institutions) and the elimination of discrimination (Goals 5 and 10) are backed by adequate measurement methods and data sources and are approved by ECOSOC and the General Assembly;
- ix. support more systematic and effective linkages between SDG reporting and monitoring mechanisms, and global, regional and national mechanisms responsible for monitoring and reporting on human rights progress, creating an efficient, virtuous circle of accountability;
- x. build the capacities of National Human Rights Institutions to: (a) participate in the development of national statistical plans; (b) play more active and effective roles in data collection; and (c) make better use of data produced by National Statistical Offices including in relation to the measurement of inequalities and discrimination;
- xi. support national human rights institutions and unified national human rights reporting and implementation mechanisms (a good example being SIMORE, in Paraguay, further details available on request), as part of the effort to strengthen linkages between human rights and SDGs reporting and monitoring processes.

The framing of the EU’s approach to addressing inequalities and discrimination is also critical, in OHCHR’s view. EU development policy

should recognize explicitly that women and girls are rights-holders and agents of change, not "vulnerable groups" needing assistance. "Vulnerability" is an empirical fact applying to many individuals and communities, and is a relevant analytical tool in the context of resilience and disaster risk reduction. But it is not an intrinsic characteristic of anyone. A "vulnerability" lens can occlude analysis of the structures of social, political and economic power that subvert, discriminate against, and deny opportunity to women, girls and many other population groups. It can also inadvertently deny agency and empowerment, which are indispensable concepts and operational approaches in connection with any policy concerned with eliminating discrimination and achieving equality.

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

Conflict is often fueled by horizontal inequalities and the failure of States to guarantee the basic necessities for a life of dignity and wellbeing (see e.g. World Development Report 2011). In turn, conflict renders fulfilling these commitments even more difficult, perpetrating a vicious cycle. A strong EU development policy directed toward the goals of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality, and promoting the realization of all human rights for all, will help to curtail these drivers of conflict.

OHCHR recommends that the EU continue providing assistance to countries to promote and strengthen the rule of law, human rights and democracy, including by ensuring the independence of the judiciary, and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to comply with international human rights norms and standards, and support initiatives undertaken by governments to strengthen democratic institutions. Equally important is supporting peace, justice and accountability in post-conflict situations, and promoting and supporting transitional justice processes in compliance with international standards and good practices

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?

Migration *per se* is not a problem but a positive and empowering experience for many. However, a lack of principled and joined-up migration governance at the global, regional and national level is creating a human rights crisis for migrants and refugees at borders and in the territory of countries of transit and destination around the world.

The drivers of precarious movements of people go beyond persecution and conflict and include poverty, discrimination, lack of education and healthcare, lack of access to decent work, separation from family, and

the consequences of climate change. Increasingly restrictive migration policies further exacerbate migrants in vulnerable situations.

The 2030 Agenda includes the commitment of States "to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons," as well as to "leave no one behind." Further, as indicated earlier, the SDGs should be interpreted and implemented in line with existing international human rights law and state obligations.

In this sense, comprehensive, systemic migration governance policies that are human rights-based would greatly minimize the negative impacts that irregular migration can entail. Such migration governance would better address the multiple drivers of these precarious involuntary movements; expand access to sufficient safe and regular migration channels, including labour mobility at all skills levels, family reunification or education opportunities; and challenge migration policies that are made on the basis of xenophobia and a lack of evidence. Ensuring that data on migration is collected and disaggregated and migrants are included across all SDGs can further help in addressing discrimination and inequalities, which negatively impacts migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Partnership Framework for Cooperation with Third Countries provides that "Increasing **coherence between migration and development policy** is important to ensure that development assistance helps partner countries manage migration more effectively, and also incentivises them to effectively cooperate on readmission of irregular migrants." The Communication goes on to describe positive incentives for countries that cooperate on return and readmission, and negative incentives for those which do not. In this regard, there are concerns with the references to "incentives" and "conditionality". Development aid must not be made conditional on compliance with the stated policy goal of increasing returns and readmissions.

(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?

See answer to question 4.1 above. Firstly, OHCHR would strongly encourage all donor countries to fulfil their own human rights commitments within and across their own borders. Almost all states have committed to mobilize maximum available resources for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights. States should also establish, monitor and enforce effective regulatory frameworks governing the roles and contributions of the private sector in connection with the SDGs and financing for development.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were explicitly recognized in the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. It is strongly arguable that the most important contribution that the private sector could make to achieving the SDGs is to "respect" human rights throughout the value chain (SHIFT, 2016 forthcoming). The EU has been a

strong supporter of the Guiding Principles to date, and will be a natural leader in ensuring that this framework guides engagement with the private sector in relation to the SDGs, Addis Ababa and Paris agreements. The European Commission's "Sector Guides" on human rights for the ICT, Oil and Gas, and Employment and Recruitment Agencies show concretely how the UN Guiding Principles can be operationalized (<http://www.shiftproject.org/ec-sectoral-guides-corporate-responsibility-respect-human-rights>). The EU's continued support for the implementation of these guidelines will be critical, and the UN Guiding Principles should also guide all EU-supported infrastructure investment projects and Public Private Partnerships. EU development cooperation could include an "accountability" component, to strengthen State-based judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and other relevant mechanisms. OHCHR would welcome the opportunity for collaboration with the EU for this purpose.

SDG target 12.7 on procurement is of obvious relevance in the present context (see

<http://community.businessfightspoverty.org/m/blogpost?id=2014886%3ABlogPost%3A232253>), as is sustainability reporting. The latter is becoming more commonplace in the EU and certain corporations, including Unilever and Nestlé, have or will shortly be strengthening their sustainability reporting from a human rights perspective through use of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (see <http://www.shiftproject.org/publication/un-guiding-principles-reporting-framework>). If more sustainability reporting could be nudged in this direction, drawing on the original Rio+20 commitment, that could make a valuable contribution in terms of avoidance of adverse human rights impacts and improved sustainability on the ground.

Indicators and good data are indispensable for effective accountability in practice. We note that there are a few suggested entry points in the IHRB's recent 2030 Agenda "State of Play" report

(<http://www.ihrb.org/pdf/state-of-play/Business-and-the-SDGs.pdf>), including suggested new indicators in SDG 17 to regulate business conduct. It's obviously too late to include new indicators in the list recently approved by the UN Statistical Commission (awaiting ECOSOC and GA approval), but global development indicators can have significant impacts in practice, for good or ill. Hence it may be worth considering and promoting the use of additional "voluntary" indicators of these kinds in EU development policy. If States in the global North and South were to adopt such additional indicators and if practice could be built up over time, additional indicators could be suggested for inclusion in the SDGs global list at the next Summit review point.

A further entry point with very significant practical impacts, is the need to integrate human rights (including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the clear guidance on "due diligence" it contains) within the social and environmental safeguard policies for private sector lending for infrastructure and other investments linked to the SDGs. A commitment to respect human rights is increasingly evident in the lending policies of project financiers, including the Equator Principles adopted by Financial Institutions which, between them, cover 70 per cent of international project finance in emerging markets. The IFC Sustainability Framework goes some way in this direction and has proven highly influential, though OHCHR is not aware of any instance where its explicit "human rights due diligence" provision (PS 1, fn 12) has been operationalised. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have all produced or revised their safeguard policies in recent years,

but all could be strengthened very significantly from a human rights perspective. The EU's leverage in development partnerships could help to ensure strengthening of lending institutions' and partners' social and environmental safeguard policies over time, from a human rights perspective.

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 targeted to efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons in vulnerable situations across the world with a particular eye toward eradicating discrimination, promoting equality and helping those most in need.

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

The EU can provide relevant technical support to promote tax collection and eliminate illicit transfers of funds as well as trade mispricing. It can also make efforts to forgive onerous foreign debt.

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

See answers to questions 3.2 and 4.4 above. Human rights impact assessments can be a useful tool for ensuring that EU policies and actions are consistent with EU commitments. For guidance on human rights impact assessments of trade and investment agreements see http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-59-Add5_en.pdf.

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?

See answers to questions 3.2 and 4.4 above. Human rights impact assessments can be a useful tool for ensuring that EU policies and actions are consistent with EU commitments. For guidance on human rights impact assessments of trade and investment agreements see http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-59-Add5_en.pdf.

(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?

On the private sector, see answer to question 5.1 above. On the importance of civil society's role and protecting/expanding civil society space, see answer to question 3.1. The Accra Agenda for Action contains important human rights commitments, and the OECD-DAC Action Oriented Policy Paper on human rights and development (2007) outlines, among other things, how "national ownership" may be pursued together with strengthened partnerships and support of civil society.

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

See answer to question 5.1 above.

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?

See answer to question 5.1 on the need to strengthen social safeguard policies of the IFC, AIIB and other private sector lenders. The same applies to sovereign lenders. The World Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework will set a new global standard. OHCHR's public submissions to the World Bank's ESF review note a range of potential weaknesses in the 2nd draft ESF (July 2015) from a human rights and due diligence perspective. A destructive "race to the bottom" in safeguard policies of MDBs is not a far-fetched possibility. Subject to the outcome of the World Bank Board's decision on the 3rd draft ESF this month, the EU could play a valuable role in helping to stem the tide and ensure strong, minimum safeguards for investment lending, underpinned by explicit human rights due diligence.

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

One of the largest risks for the SDGs is that the global goals and targets will be "lost in translation" from global to national levels. We are already seeing this in many countries' plans and in preparations for the first round of voluntary reviews in the HLPF. The 2030 Agenda calls for an integrated vision and actions across the peace and security, development and human rights pillars of the UN Charter, seeking to realize freedoms from fear and want for all people without discrimination. This means that all goals and targets should be implemented in an integrated and mutually reinforcing manner. There should be no cherry-picking, or à la carte approach, when translating global aspirations into country plans and actions. SDG targets should not be dropped merely due to political sensitivity or concerns about measurability. All countries have different starting points and capacities, and may require different timeframes and benchmarks for achieving particular SDG targets, but no country has an excuse to ignore or de-prioritize human rights. EU member countries could set a strong example in their own national reviews of progress, ensuring that all SDG targets are faithfully reflected and more ambitious benchmarks adopted as needed. The EU's support would be valuable in helping low-income countries ensure that all SDG targets are reflected in national plans and reporting, subject to the determination of nationally appropriate benchmarks through participatory processes.

6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

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

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

(7) Keeping track of progress

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

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

See answers to questions 4.2 and 4.6, above, on the importance of evidence and the need for systematic integration of national and international reporting processes for the SDGs and human rights. Over one half of the SDG targets are already monitored, to varying degrees, by UN human rights mechanisms. It is essential from the standpoint of efficiency, as well as for policy coherence and impact, that these data and reporting systems be joined up. The President of the UN Human Rights Council and the chairs of the UN human rights treaty bodies have provided written submissions to the HLFP's July 2016 session on the theme of "Leaving No-One Behind", at the invitation of the President of the UN General Assembly. This is an important first step, illustrating the direct relevance of the UN human rights reporting and monitoring bodies to the SDGs, but needs to be systematized for all thematic and country-specific SDG reporting.

OHCHR recommends that the EU go beyond monitoring and adopt a more analytical approach to SDGs reporting, and undertaken human rights impact assessments of significant policy actions. Use of additional human rights indicators to supplement the SDGs global framework of indicators could put monitoring of the development field into a larger human rights perspective. Assessment of inequalities and discrimination using disaggregated data to pinpoint those who are lagging behind is crucial in response to the call for 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching those who are furthest behind first' in the 2030 Development Agenda, as indicated earlier in these submissions. Use of budget analysis could make the budget process more effective for the implementation of the SDGs. For more information, see OHCHR's guide for developing human rights indicators and their use for monitoring and analysis, Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, HR/PUB/12/5, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Human_rights_indicators_en.pdf.

The EU could also strengthen the data collection process to be more inclusive and transparent. As indicated in its answer to question 4.6,

OHCHR has recently developed a guidance note on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD), consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Statistics. The aim is to provide general guidance and common understanding on a HRBAD, with a focus on issues of data disaggregation and collection. The topic is timely as States have called for leaving no one behind and more systematic data disaggregation to help achieve and measure the new development goals. A HRBAD would help bring together relevant data stakeholders and develop communities of practice to improve the quality, relevance and use of data and statistics consistently with international human rights norms and principles. The HRBAD is grounded in legally-binding international human rights commitments, recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, and related good practices on implementation of principles of participation, data disaggregation, self-identification, transparency, privacy and accountability. For more information, see 'Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Development Agenda', <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>.

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?

See answers to question 5.1 (private sector), 6.4 (avoiding dilution of SDGs from global to national level) and 7.1 (data, monitoring and analysis). Over half of the SDG targets are already being monitored, to varying degrees, by the UN human rights bodies. Recently, at the invitation of the President of the UN General Assembly, the President of the UN Human Rights Council and chairs of the UN human rights treaty bodies submitted written inputs to the HLPF, providing a wealth of data, analysis and recommendations on the theme of "leaving no-one behind." This encouraging initiative should be replicated and systematised for all SDG thematic and country reviews. There should be a virtual circle between the UN human rights and SDG review mechanisms, for the sake of efficiency as well as impact. The support of the EU and its member States would be vital in order to achieve this objective.

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

OHCHR, in consultation with statisticians and data specialists, has developed guidance on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data. Grounded in international human rights norms and principles, it provides practical guidance to support further participation of "left behind groups" in data collection efforts, data disaggregation by grounds of discrimination prohibited by human rights law, reconciling transparency and privacy, and strengthening accountability (both data for accountability and accountability in data work). See <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>

Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu