

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

The year 2015 was a strategic milestone for global governance, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It marked the target date of the UN Millennium Development Goals and a point to reflect on the progress made to date and the challenges ahead in addressing their unfinished business. 2015 also saw a series of landmark international summits and conferences over the course of the year (the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the COP 21 [Paris Agreement](#) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) which have collectively re-cast the way the international community, including the EU, will work to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication for many years.

Importantly, and in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, including its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, is a universal Agenda which applies to all countries. It reflects many core European values and interests and provides an international framework for tackling global challenges such as climate change. The EU response to the 2030 Agenda is moving ahead in a range of ways:

- Firstly, as part of EU efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, the [Commission Work Programme for 2016](#) announces an initiative on the next steps for a sustainable European future which will explain how the EU contributes to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and map out the internal and external aspects of EU policies contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Secondly, the High Representative will present the [EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy](#) that is expected to steer the different EU external policies contributing to the global vision of a more stable, prosperous and secure world. It should set out the strategic direction for the full range of EU external action, and as such will help guide EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda in external action.
- Thirdly, the EU will review its development cooperation policy. Existing leading policy documents (including the [2005 European Consensus on Development](#) and the [2011 Agenda for Change](#)) are currently framed around the Millennium Development Goals and need to adapt to incorporate the 2030 Agenda. Given its direct relevance to the EU's overall relations with developing countries, this review will be carried out in full consistency with the ongoing work on the future of the partnership between the EU and the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, under a post-[Cotonou](#) framework.

Views from this consultation will be used to inform the way forward on the initiatives above and in particular the revision of the European Consensus on Development and other external aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation. The consultation seeks your views on **how development policy, in the context of EU external action as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty**, should respond to the range of landmark 2015 summits and conferences, and also to the rapid changes happening in the world.

Replies can include views which could apply only to the EU institutions and also to both the EU and its Member States – it would be helpful to clarify this in your response. This open public consultation will run for 12 weeks from 30 May 2016 to 21 August 2016. A brief summary and analysis of all consultation contributions will be published by November 2016 and all individual contributions will also be made available on the consultation website (unless respondents ask for their contributions not to be published).

(2) Information on respondents

- * 2.1 Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Please state your preference with regard to the publication of your contribution.

Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under [Regulation 1049/2001](#) on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In such cases, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable [data protection rules](#).

- I do not agree that my contribution will be published at all
- My contribution may be published but should be kept anonymous; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication
- My contribution may be published under the name indicated; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication

- * 2.2 Are you registered in the EU's Transparency Register?

Please note: Organisations, networks, platforms or self-employed individuals engaged in activities aimed at influencing the EU decision making process are expected to register in the transparency Register. During the analysis of replies to a consultation, contributions from respondents who choose not to register will be treated as individual contributions (unless the contributors are recognised as representative stakeholders through Treaty provisions, European Social Dialogue, Art. 154-155 TFEU).

- Yes
- No

- * 2.2.1 If yes, what is your registration number?

26634082731-16

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

International Disability and Development Consortium

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

- Government institution / Public administration
- University / Academic organisation
- Civil society (including Non-Governmental Organisation, specialised policy organisation, think tank)
- International organisation
- Private sector or private company
- Citizen/private individual
- Other

2.6 Please specify

* 2.7 What is your place of residence (if you are answering as a private individual) or where are the headquarters of your organisation situated (if you are answering on behalf of an organisation)?

- In one of the 28 EU Member States
- Other

2.8 Please specify

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?

The 2030 Agenda was developed based on the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals. Leaving no one behind has been the leading motto for the establishment of the framework. Economic, social and environmental dimensions are interlinked in the 2030 Agenda; therefore there is a need for the EU to develop an implementation plan which strengthens coordination between EU Institutions in addition to promote a dialogue with the civil society.

One of the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals is the need to accelerate addressing the issue of inequalities and discrimination towards persons with disabilities:

The growing trend is a consensus among bigger numbers of development actors to take action towards the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. For that, there is a need to base these global actions on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As a result of more than 166 states having ratified the CRPD, since its entry into force ten years ago, persons with disabilities and their representative organisations have been more and more present in international fora. Advocacy for the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities is a growing movement, within the EU and abroad. According to Art. 32 of the CRPD, international cooperation needs to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. This makes perfect sense, given the fact that one in five persons in the world is living with a disability, and 80% of those live in developing countries. Given the trend of better addressing development in a comprehensive approach, the EU should focus more strongly on a more effective integration of the rights based approach to disability in line with the CRPD and its external actions.

The World Report on Disabilities is a key tool that provides evidence of the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in society : through some figures, it demonstrates the link between poverty and disability. In addition, it raises the main challenges for the more systematic inclusion of persons with disabilities in data and statistics, education, health or employment, among other and provides ten major recommendation for action. The orientation of EU external action towards security and migration deterrence, at the expense of development is also a worrying trend.

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?

Agenda 2030 is of the people, for the people and by the people, which is of special significance for persons with disabilities as it corresponds to one of the main principles of the disability-rights movement: Nothing About us Without Us. It acknowledges the importance of the role played by civil

society in its implementation. Inclusion of stakeholders (notably persons with disabilities and their representative organisations) at every step of the development, implementation and monitoring of implementation measures for the Agenda 2030, is a key factor in order to fight discrimination and exclusion of persons with disabilities and to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities. This should ensure that the universal vision outlined in the Agenda 2030 is fulfilled. Indeed, all along the 2030 Agenda, persons with disabilities are included, specifically, as an explicit part of the group denominated as vulnerable, and through the universal language used and any renewed European Consensus on Development that purports to be facilitate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 should be drafted in a way that reflects its inclusiveness. In addition, accessibility measures must be considered, especially in EU delegations in order to promote active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations as decision makers.

As mentioned in the current consensus, Sustainable development includes human rights at its core, which, by definition, include the rights of persons with disabilities. Thanks to the ratification by the EU of the CRPD, this fact is now a part of international human rights law, and the EU has the positive obligation to respect, protect, and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including it more systematically in its international cooperation policies and actions, as the CRPD Committee confirmed in its recommendations to the EU during the review of the EU's implementation of the CRPD. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with disabilities is the monitoring body in charge of evaluating the implementation of the CRPD by State Parties to the Convention. After each State Party review, the Committee publishes Concluding Observations, which inform the State Party on the ameliorations to be made in order to further and better implement the CRPD. The moral and symbolic weight of the Committee's decisions should not be underestimated. Furthermore, the Committee publishes on a regular basis General Comments, explaining in detail how its articles should be understood and implemented. A human rights-based approach to development empowers holders of rights to claim and be an active participant in the fulfillment of these rights, but also looks to assist and develop the capacity of governments to fulfill their commitments and obligations. Furthermore, this approach looks especially at more vulnerable groups. This is especially important for persons with disabilities, and any development framework should follow such an approach, taking care to consider barriers (physical or otherwise) to participation and specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the fulfillment of their rights.

Respect of pledges, especially relating to ODA, which needs to be inclusive, to ensure that it does not create undue barriers for participation of persons with disabilities, and to generally take into account persons with disabilities, effectively ensuring that they are not leaving anyone behind. Proper funding must be allocated to strengthen the participation of those people who face more discrimination. Only by promoting equality, sustainable growth will be achieved. However, financial crisis has demonstrated that resources for persons with disabilities were the first ones to be cut. The consequences of these measures will remain even after the end of the financial crisis and the achievements reached so far will be lost. The Multiannual Financial Framework and its Instruments linked to external

action, along with the EDF, need to take into account the rights of persons with disabilities in order to comply with the CRPD in order for the EU to attain the goals to which it committed.

Development resources should be allocated to the people most in need.

Currently GDP per capita is used as the main criteria to allocate development resources. However, GDP per capita fails to measure existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and therefore does not provide a clear picture of the country concerned. A focus on GDP per capita will always hurt the poorest and most marginalised in society. It is therefore important to channel resources not only based on GDP per capita. An alternative would be to use a combination between GDP/capita; the human development index (HDI), a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development.

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

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

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

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

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

The 2030 Agenda is a comprehensive framework in which social, economic and environmental pillars are interlinked. In order to achieve sustainability, poverty eradication cannot be done without taking into consideration the limits of the planet. Consequences of climate change affect disproportionately to those facing more discrimination, including persons with disabilities. Natural hazards and armed conflict can also be cause of disability, so it is essential that organisations of persons with disabilities are part of the planning, implementation and monitoring process of the Paris Agreement together with the 2030 Agenda. Climate change has a direct consequence to persons with disabilities. Natural disasters worsen the living conditions of persons with disabilities; in addition, natural disasters may be a cause for people to get a disability.

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?

A human-rights based approach is the best way to ensure a balanced integration of the 3 dimensions of sustainable development, as they interlink and complement each other with a view to ensure the full enjoyment of their human rights by all people, including persons with disabilities.

In addition, it is crucial that the EU establishes a coordination mechanism among different institutions, especially among different Directorate-Generals in order to ensure that interlinkages between goals and targets are respected. This is also valid for different focal points among EU institutions. Equality and non discrimination means the inclusion of the most vulnerable population, including migrants, women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly people, LGBTI or other minorities who face more discrimination.

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

As mentioned in the CRPD Committee concluding observations during the EU's review of its implementation of the CRPD, the EU should have a systematic approach to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in all its international cooperation policies and programmes, including the identification implementation of mechanisms to disaggregate data on disability in order to monitor the rights of persons with disabilities in European Union development programmes.

As per the CRPD, the EU should also ensure that none of the programmes /activities funded by it are used to create or perpetuate undue barriers to the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Disability especially needs to be mainstreamed in all human development activities, above purely poverty-targeted activities. Health, education, culture and economic and social rights are inextricably linked with civil and political rights, and all are prerequisites for a full participation in society. This has to apply also to persons with disabilities in order to leave no one behind. Inclusive education is a field that is especially important for persons with disabilities, as education is probably one of the more essential requirements for a fruitful participation in society, and allows those who benefit from it to fight more adequately to get out of, or stay out of poverty.

Any new development policy framework should be in line with Agenda 2030, especially when it comes to persons with disabilities. Indeed, the principles underpinning the Agenda, namely "leaving no one behind", universality, interdependence of the achievement of various goals/objectives make it clear that any consensus based on the Agenda must include all, including persons with disabilities, in order to make sense and to be achieved.

Focus on the most vulnerable: per Agenda 2030, this has to include persons with disabilities in order not to leave anyone behind. Whereas MDGs focused exclusively on poverty reduction and left the most marginalized behind.

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?

EU Policies and Programmes must ensure coherence. The fact that the EU is the first regional body on signing and ratifying the CRPD must be translated into real implementation. The Human Rights Action Plan is a good practice on how the EU should include the rights of persons with disabilities in its policies. However, the new Gender Action Plan does not include specific objectives, targets or indicators which guarantee the inclusion of the rights of women and girls with disabilities, despite the good intentions of ensuring coherence between the Human Rights Action Plan and the Gender Action Plan. This is one example of the need of further cooperation between EU institutions. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development is essential to avoid those mistakes committed during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

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)?

There is a general tendency to focus on Least Developed Countries as the EU believes its development cooperation has most value in these LCDs. We go towards a system of differentiation where ODA is no longer available for Middle Income Countries. However Development resources should be allocated to the people most in need and GDP per capita fails to measure existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and therefore does not provide a clear picture of the country concerned. A focus on GDP per capita will always hurt the poorest and most marginalised in society. It is therefore thus important to channel resources not only based on GDP per capita. An alternative would be to use a combination between GDP/capita; the human development index (HDI), a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development. it's different dimensions (health, education, standard of living); and a measure to capture inequality within the country, for example the GINI coefficient.

However, in case of differentiation it is important that the overall level of ODA is not reduced, even if the number of beneficiary countries reduces. In addition, countries should be subject to a transitional phase when graduating to a MIC. This transitional phase should include impact assessments of the effects of such graduation and thereby taking into account the effects on the poorest and most marginalised, such as persons with disabilities, in society. In this regard it is essential to include civil society, and more specifically DPOs in this process.

Furthermore, the EU should live up to the commitments made in the 2015 Addis Ababa Agenda for Action. It has a responsibility to support the delivery of social protection and essential public services for all. To end poverty in all its forms everywhere and finish the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the EU should commit to a new social compact. It should push for fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, with a focus on those furthest below the poverty line and the vulnerable, persons with disabilities, indigenous persons, children, youth and older persons. The EU should also encourage its partner countries to consider setting nationally appropriate spending targets for quality investments in essential public services for all, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation, consistent with national sustainable development strategies.

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

As outlined by the CRPD Committee, a systematic approach to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in all its international cooperation policies and programmes, alongside initiatives specifically targeted towards the rights of persons with disabilities, while taking care of considering any possibility of multiple discriminations.

More specifically, the fight against gender inequality is key to the realization of the Agenda, especially for women and girls with disabilities who are especially at risk of multiple discriminations. Consequently, the renewed Consensus needs to specifically include girls and women with disabilities in any inequality-related points. The Gender Action Plan, in its narrative part, only includes two references to women and girls with disabilities:

“The gender gap is even larger when gender inequality intersects with other forms of exclusion such as disability, age, caste, ethnicity, sexual orientation, geographical remoteness or religion”.

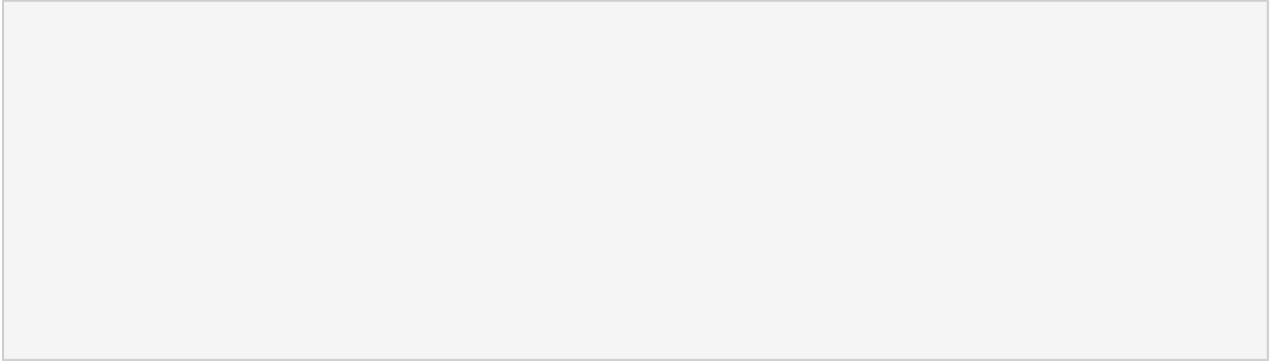
“Girls and women living in poverty and those who face additional discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, sexuality, disability, caste, or age amongst others, have even less say or control over decisions that affect them and over resources at all levels. In some cases, legislation itself discriminates against them, for instance when women and girls cannot own property or inherit capital.”

However, there are no specific objectives, targets or indicators for women and girls with disabilities included in the Gender Action Plan. Despite the fact that the EU is legally binding to the CRPD, there is no reference to this framework. It is demonstrated the link between poverty and disability and yet multiple discrimination is not properly raised in the international agenda.

This is especially true for more vulnerable groups facing very specific – and solvable – challenges, such as persons with disabilities. People know best what their own needs are, and have valuable opinions as to how their needs should be addressed.

In addition, the EU should keep up to its commitment in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action and ensure its international policies contribute to accessible technology for persons with disabilities. It is vital that persons with disabilities in developing countries are able to access knowledge on an equal basis with everyone else, be it general knowledge accessibility, or knowledge relating to assistive devices which are necessary for a lot of persons with disabilities to participate fully in society.

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?

In its Concluding Observations, Committee Members of CRPD asked to the EU to “mainstream disability in its migration and refugee policies.” According to the 2030 Agenda, migration has a positive impact for societies since it contributes to sustainable development. However, EU policies regarding migration and refugees are not aligned with fundamental human rights treaties, including the CRPD. The EU must lead on inclusive and sustainable policies on migration.

Migration and climate financing must be an additional budget line and it should always be human centered instead of security centered.

(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?

Private sector is becoming an essential ally for sustainable development. Small and medium enterprises can really contribute to a sustainable growth. Inclusive policies on private sector can lead, for instance, to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in labour market, which will have a positive impact in the entire society by promoting equality to those people who face more discrimination.

However, private sector must follow human rights treaties. An accountability system must be put in place in order to ensure that private sector activities are aligned with 2030 Agenda.

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 at the most vulnerable groups, within all countries (LDCs or MICs). In selecting partner countries, criteria beyond GDP per capita should be used, given the difficulty to measure in-country inequalities with that metric.

There is a tendency to support the development of Private sector with ODA. However, Private sector investment does not automatically lead to poverty eradication, or to the eradication of inequalities. ODA should always contribute to the development of a country and improve situation for the citizens. There can be investment in private sector, but only if these conditions are respected. Using ODA to support multinational companies is not acceptable, but support to Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) can be helpful. The EU should in this regard keep in mind the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action to stimulate full and productive employment and decent work for all and promoting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. Full and productive employment and decent work for should be a central objective in the development strategies. One of the key issues under this objective should be the full and equal participation of women and men, including women and men with disabilities, in the formal labour market. Finally, the EU should not use ODA to finance security operations, especially as it relates to migration deterrence. It is self-serving, counter-productive and is not in the best interest of the local population. Conditionality, especially those related to migration-deterrence should also be seen as unacceptable, given the EU's core principles.

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

First of all by fulfilling its ODA commitment of 0.7% GNI and by acting beyond direct financial aid, notably with capacity building and knowledge-sharing.

The EU should also ensure that partner country resources towards sustainable development comply with the principle of Leaving no one behind.

Since persons with disabilities are among the poorest and most vulnerable, the risks linked to trade liberalization affect them particularly. The EU should ensure in its bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that persons with disabilities are not unfairly and discriminatorily impacted by any measures. Failing to do so would run contrary to the CRPD, Agenda 2030, and the EU's founding values of human rights.

In addition, where trade agreements relate to intellectual property, the risk for persons with disabilities to be disproportionately affected is even higher, given the role of technology in the field of assistive technology. This fact should be taken into account and decisions should be made to ensure fairness.

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

Knowledge sharing and capacity reinforcement should be important parts of development cooperation with MICs, while making sure to pay specific attention to most marginalized groups, including in HR dialogues. MICs does not automatically imply improved situations, especially for persons with disabilities.

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?

Only by coordinating policies and actions from EU institutions, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development can be really achieved. There are some opened processes which should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, such as the review of the Multiannual Financial Framework or the future of the Cotonou Agreement, as well as Europe 2020. Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020 is also an opportunity to align the CRPD with the SDGs implementation plan.

(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?

Sharing knowledge and good practices between EU, civil society, local authorities and different stakeholders is essential. Learning from experience and promoting collaboration at international, regional, national and local level are two of the main mechanisms to support implementation not only of 2030 Agenda but also Financing for Development or Sendai Framework for Sustainable Development.

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

By promoting sustainable and inclusive small and medium enterprise, the EU can promote economic sustainable growth with the aim to ensure local and national economic sustainability. Accountability of private sector must be a priority for the EU. Despite the essential role of private sector in sustainable development the EU, in collaboration with the Civil Society, must establish a mechanism to ensure that private sector actions are aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

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

The EU must take the lead on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda promoting a human rights based approach. This will have an impact both in developing and developed countries, which should be considered as good practices. Both challenges and successes should be share with other stakeholders at international, regional and national level. Only by sharing experiences and by promoting Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, sustainability will be achieved.

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

Looking at the 2030 Agenda's means of implementation, it appears clearly that the creation of a partnership for development is not limited to financial aid, but also includes Sharing of expertise and capacities, technologies, etc. This is especially important for persons with disabilities, as these alternate means include extremely important tools such as assistive devices. The EU should also be leading by example in the inclusive implementation of Agenda 2030 within its borders, therefore developing knowledge and good practices.

In parallel, EU Delegations should be used to advise and guide partner countries in the inclusive implementation of Agenda 2030.

The EU should ensure inclusiveness and non-discrimination through its trade agreements, especially Economic Partnership Agreements.

Finally, Agenda 2030 clearly states that in order to ensure no one is left behind, quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data is needed. This includes data disaggregated by gender, age, religion, ethnicity, disability, The EU should support the development of statistical capacities in developing countries to collect such disaggregated data.

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 European Consensus for Development is a new opportunity to develop an action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by leaving no one behind, leading by example and hopefully influencing development actions of Member States. Learning from the experience of the previous Consensus for Development, the EU should define key and comprehensive objectives, among which human rights for all must be a priority.

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

The EU must take a bottom-up approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which should be translated into an active participation of Civil Society Organisations as decision makers, which also include the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities. In order to do so, the EU must ensure physical and technological accessibility., especially in EU Delegations in which inclusive and constructive dialogue between the EU, local authorities and civil society must be promoted.

The EU must guarantee internal coordination within EU institutions as well as cooperation with Civil Society Organisations, including organisations of persons with disabilities. It is essential for the EU to involve specific focal points from the different DGs of the EU Commission, the EEAS and EU Delegations. In order to leave no one behind, population facing discrimination must be included in decision making processes, such as organisations of persons with disabilities, women, LGBTI or elderly people.

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?

Quality, disaggregated data collection (including by disability) is the only way to properly track the implementation of the Agenda, especially when it comes to persons with disabilities, and to ensure that no one is left behind. The follow-up has to be robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated.

Ideally, national statistical agencies, DEVCO, and Eurostat should work together to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in data collection on development cooperation

The EU should also support National Statistical Agencies of developing countries to implement inclusive quality data collection, disaggregated by relevant criteria, including disability.

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?

Independent review mechanisms of EU development policy by mechanisms which include civil society are necessary in order to assess effectiveness of Agenda 2030 Implementation, including its compliance with CRPD. Organisations of persons with disabilities must be part of the implementation and monitoring mechanisms in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

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

The review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be followed up by the High Level Political Forum. 2016 has been the first year in which countries presented their reports. However, there are no references to persons with disabilities in these first reports, failing already the principle of leaving no one behind. This tendency has to change and the EU must lead on raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities at EU and international level.

Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu
