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?

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953927613272-05
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* 2.3 Name (entity or individual in their personal capacity)

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Woord en Daad Foundation
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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

* 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

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Gorinchem, The Netherlands
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(3) Context: why a change is needed

The EU and its Member States are determined to implement the 2030 Agenda through internal and external actions as well as contribute to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, given the strong interlinkages. In this context, our policies, should take into account changing global conditions and trends, to ensure that they remain fit-for-purpose across the time-horizon to 2030.

The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level, more than 800 million people still live on less than USD 1.25 a day. The world is witnessing multiple conflicts and security tensions, complex humanitarian and global health crises, deteriorations of human rights, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, urbanisation and migration. Migration flows across the world will continue to have important impacts, and present both a risk and an opportunity. The EU needs to address global security challenges, including tackling the root causes of conflict and instability and countering violent extremism. Climate change can continue to amplify problems and can severely undermine progress. Important changes include demographic trends, a new distribution of wealth and power between and within countries, the continuing globalisation of economies and value chains, an evolving geography of poverty and a proliferation of actors working on development. Projections also suggest important challenges are ahead (for example, continuing unprecedented urbanisation, and other demographic challenges including ageing societies for some and the potential for a demographic dividend for others). Continued attention will be given to a democratic, stable and prosperous neighbourhood. A revision to EU development policy should take into account these trends (including anticipating those that will remain central in future) whilst retaining a core focus on eradicating poverty and finishing the job started by the Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, the EU Consensus needs also to adapt to the Lisbon Treaty, which provides for all external action policies to work within the frameworks and pursue the principles of objectives of Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union. In particular, coherence between the different parts of EU external action and between external and internal policies is crucial.

The EU will need to address these new global challenges, many of which require coordinated policy action at the national, regional and global levels. The 2030 Agenda provides a framework which can guide us in doing so.

3.1 There is a range of key global trends (e.g. changing geography and depth of poverty; challenges related to climate change, political, economic, social, demographic, security, environmental or technological) which will influence the future of development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Which of these do you think is the most important?

3.2 How should EU policies, and development policy in particular, better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trend you identified in the previous question?
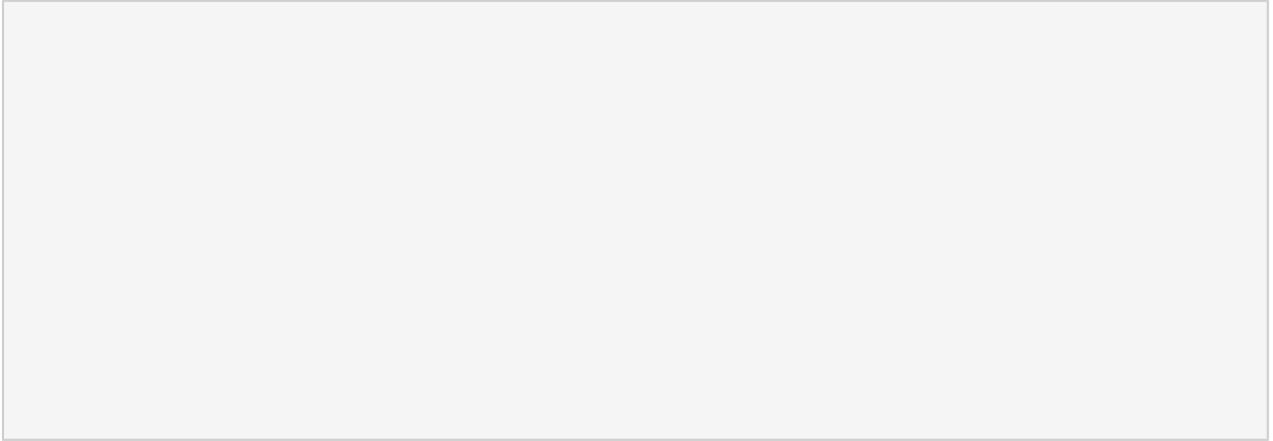
(4) Priorities for our future action: what we need to do

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

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

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

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

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Agenda 2030 is a universal appeal. It challenges a wide range of other actors
to take sustainable development as a starting point. Development cooperation
will remain key to promote sustainable development, but only alongside
fundamental changes in other policy areas. In the end all our policies should
become SDG proof.
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Leave no one behind: This is one of the underlying principles of Agenda 2030. It challenges us to analyse processes of exclusion and inclusion at different levels and to design specific interventions to ensure that no one is left behind. Instruments for private sector development need to become much more inclusive; relying on an assumed trickle-down effect is no longer possible. Trade agreements should be well designed and be closely monitored; otherwise on-going economic globalisation will exacerbate increasing inequalities. All policies should converge to the single objective of leaving no one behind.

Food security: SDG 2 and other SDGs challenge us to broaden our response to food insecurity. Providing only direct support to small-scale farmers or food aid falls short of the ambition reflected in this goal. We need to look at the global impact of the EU's trade and agricultural policies and address negative effects with focused policy measures. Sustainable production and consumption should be promoted both inside and outside Europe. A coherent response to food insecurity requires harmonising different international policies and agendas.

Global Health: SDG 3 asks for an integrated approach to health issues. That means promoting public health from a health systems perspective. Instead of focusing on individual health projects or policy responses to single diseases, the SDG agenda asks for an inclusive global health policy. Coherence in the area of global health means, to a large extent, linking national policies to global health challenges.

Global Value Chains: SDGs 8, 12 and 15 challenge the private sector and governments to work towards sustainable global value chains in which social and environmental concerns are fully addressed. In several GVCs social rights are violated and damage to the local environment is inflicted at a large scale. Agenda 2030 points towards an approach to GVCs that reconciles the economic, social and environmental interests at stake: to make GVCs economically profitable, socially beneficial, and environmentally sustainable.

Climate change: Together with the Paris agreement on climate change, the SDG agenda calls for urgent action at home and abroad. It is impossible to continue an energy policy at home which is based on fossil fuels, while promoting renewables abroad. Our global climate policy and our national energy policy should be in harmony with each other. At the financial level reforms are strongly needed; for example moving away from investing in fossil fuel projects towards renewable energy. At present developing countries bear too large a part of the financial burden of climate change. New and innovative instruments are needed to generate the resources needed for implementing climate policies

Migration: In the current context with increasing numbers of migrants travelling toward the EU, the migration discourse mainly focuses on controlling the influx of migrants and refugees and whether or not these persons should get leave to stay in Europe or not. SDG Target 10.7 presents the courageous challenge to execute a balanced agenda facilitating orderly,

safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, in such a way
that migrant women, men and children are enabled to positively contribute to
inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Peace and security: SDG 16 focuses on peace, security and access to justice.
These are fundamental preconditions for sustainable social and economic
development. Agenda 2030 is an appeal to everyone to make sure that we do not
protect our own security at the cost of others, or allow security concerns to
override development objectives. This means leading by example when it comes
to the arms trade. It is also important to make sure development finance in
the form of remittances finds its way to developing countries, also to
countries where a risk of financing terrorism has been identified.

Tax: SDG 17 sets the ambition of strengthening developing countries' capacity
for domestic resource mobilisation. Any policy effort in that direction will
only be successful if, in parallel, tax dodging and tax avoidance are
addressed. Raising domestic tax revenues and fighting international tax
avoidance are fundamental in realizing the SDG agenda. The SDG agenda
together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are a step forward in the fight
for tax justice. In an era of tax havens and tax injustice, a global approach
to tax reform and tax transparency is needed.

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 universality principle of the Agenda 2030 has expanded policy coherence
in many ways. It concerns all countries regardless of their development
level. It presents PCSD as an approach and as a policy tool that is valid for
all countries in acknowledgement of the interrelationships between the
economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of development at
all stages of domestic and international policy-making. The evolved concept
of PCSD in the post-2015 context seems to put stronger emphasis on integrated
and cross-sectoral implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In practice for
example, when assessing the consequences of EU policies on food security both
within and beyond its borders, one would have to address links between a
number of different policy areas including agriculture, trade and energy to
name a few. One proposal is to address PCSD issues using a nexus approach
where each nexus presents the complex and dynamic interconnections between
sectors normally overseen separately. For example, the food/energy/water
nexus shows how these areas can be interdependent (e.g. food production
requires water, land and energy), but also lead to trade-offs and conflicts
(e.g. the trade-off between protecting forests and increasing agricultural
land), or may reinforce each other (e.g. water and energy efficiency may
reinforce renewable energy targets).

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

A first issue is to understand what the concept of Policy Coherence for
Sustainable Development concretely means for SDG implementation. The more
traditional PCD approach gives responsibilities to developed countries (and
increasingly upper-middle income and emerging economies) for the benefit of
poorer developing countries, while PCSD is presented as a guiding principle
for SDG implementation by and for all countries. The broader PCSD lens can
help to ensure that coherence with other goals and objectives is guaranteed,
not only horizontally across different thematic policy domains, but also
between different actors and partnerships and at various governance levels
from local, national and regional to international.
Part of the challenge is to bring policy makers and stakeholders with
different worldviews, mindsets and objectives together. While better
communication and coordination structures, as well as increased awareness
about the joint goals of PCSD in the post-2015 context, are important,
focusing on institutional coordination structures and institutional
mechanisms alone is not sufficient. We should also acknowledge the inherently
political nature of PCSD. Therefore, a first important change in mindset
needed for greater progress on PCSD would be to recognise that strengthening
PCSD is about 'our common and long-term' development.

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?
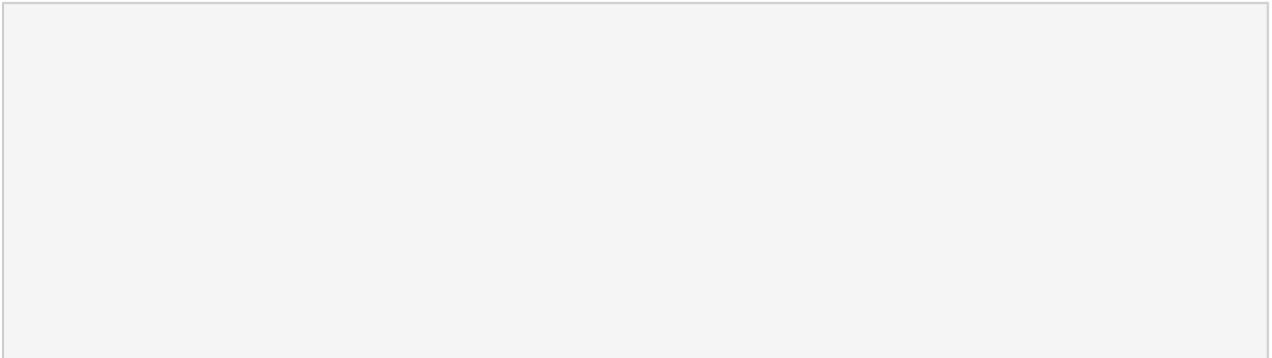
4.5 In which areas does the EU have greatest value-added as a development partner (e.g. which aspects of its development policy, dialogue or implementation arrangements or in which category of countries)?
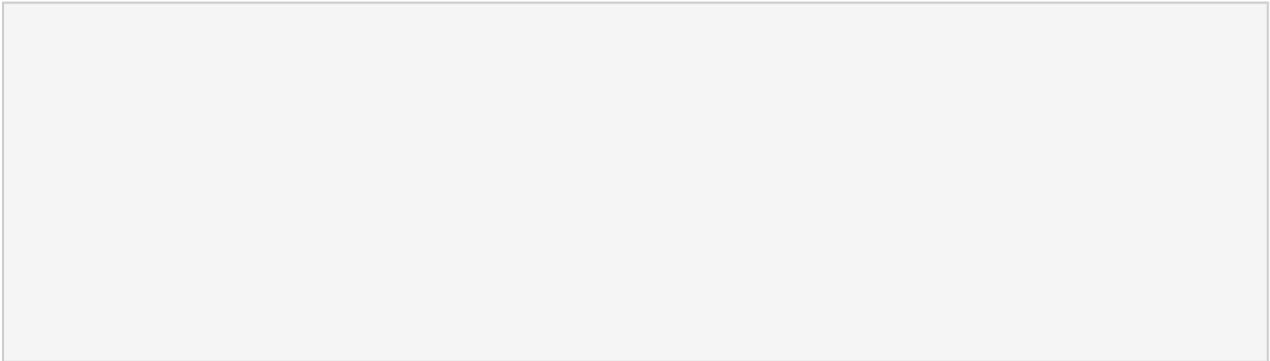
4.6 How can the EU refine its development policy to better address inequalities – including gender inequality – in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

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Inequality can only be tackled successfully if we make a deliberate effort to
make different policies more inclusive.
In practice inclusion is not as simple as it may sound. Often marginalised
groups are (un)consciously being overlooked, are reinforcing their
marginalisation through self-exclusion or are only reached by chance.
Participatory assessments show that interventions often aim at groups that
are more easily accessible; a large group of ultra-poor people is often not
included, leading to chronic poverty.

The ones excluded may vary in and between contexts; factors can be related to
geography, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender, health status,
religion, family or a combination of those. Disaggregated data on populations
by, for example, gender and age is sparse but needed. Extremely marginalised
groups such as children without parental care and victims of human
trafficking, are sometimes not even counted because of technical issues or
due to political motives, leaving them invisible. In addition, social norms
have been neglected in poverty eradication efforts. These norms can
marginalise people and keep them poor, and stigma can be a powerful force for
impoverishment. Thus, exclusion and poverty are correlated.

Over the past years, positive steps towards more inclusion have been taken by
the European Union, but there are also areas for improvement.
Inclusion of marginalised groups should be systematically included in
monitoring and evaluation systems of the European Commission, and in the
multi-annual strategies of EU Delegations in partner countries.
Although differences exist in approaches to ensuring inclusion, there are a
number of important commonalities. First of all, policies for inclusion have
a twin track approach: a combination of mainstream programmes taking
appropriate steps to address the rights of marginalised people, while at the
same time targeted initiatives are undertaken to address their specific
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needs. Next, consultation with people from excluded groups is fundamental, at all stages from design to implementation and evaluation. Finally, data collection is always part of inclusion policies.

A strong focus on inclusion of marginalised groups is not only important from a human rights or social point of view. It is even the prerequisite for achieving the SDGs. 'Economic growth that leaves no one behind can deliver sustainable development more quickly. If all groups had benefitted equally from growth since 2000, extreme poverty would be eliminated by 2030'. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that, in the long run, exclusion can carry significant costs for societies. Excluding people from preventive health care services for instance can incur costs later on as diseases progress and become costly to treat. From an economic point of view exclusion of the poorest of the poor is also not sustainable.

The focus on inclusion is not only needed at the level of direct support instruments in the social realm, but also at the level of policies intended to build an enabling environment for the private sector. Regulation of markets, in order to address adverse effects of free trade, is strongly needed. Many people who still live in poverty do not participate in global trade. They operate at subsistence level, or struggle to make their small enterprise profitable. However, their economic opportunities are to a large extent determined by how well their countries are integrated in global trade.

So far the EU has tried to mitigate adverse effects of free trade for poorer with special trade regimes like the General System of Preferences (GSP), GSP+ and Everything But Arms. The economic impact of these regimes on developing countries has recently been evaluated as positive. Now that the EU is about to ratify Economic Partnership Agreements with ACP countries, concerns arise about potential negative impact of increased free trade on insufficiently competitive sectors in ACP countries. These concerns ought to provide a strong rationale for a special policy focus on promoting intra-regional trade in Africa and other regions, so as to strengthen the position of relatively poor regions in the global economy. This is of particular importance at a time in which WTO trade negotiations do not sufficiently incorporate the perspective of LDCs, and strong players like the EU, the US and others are heading towards regional configurations.

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?

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The EU is one of the world's most important actors in the support of peace
building and state building in fragile and conflict affected countries. As
one of the EU Member States, the Netherlands has shown leadership in linking
peace, security and development. For example, the Netherlands has been a
strong proponent of the '3D approach'. In this approach defence, diplomacy
and development, the three 'Ds', are combined to tackle security, governance
and development in Dutch overseas missions. The EU is encouraged to follow
the same approach.
In response to the increased security threat in Europe, EU Member States take
measures to improve security policies at home. However, some of these
measures have unintended negative consequences for security abroad, which in
turn can have negative implications for development objectives. For example,
the arms trade can encourage conflicts or human right violations in
developing countries, and stricter Anti-Money Laundering and Combating
Financing for Terrorism (AMT/CFT) regulations can have negative effects on
migrants' remittances towards developing countries. Therefore EU policymakers
always need to be aware of the potential for the promotion of European
security interests to be at the expense of sustainable development, in order
to achieve peaceful and inclusive societies at home and abroad.
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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 nowadays is increasingly framed as a security issue. This is reflected in political actions with increasingly restrictive immigration policies, which in turn feeds into increasing anti-immigration sentiments across the EU. However, migration also offers a lot of opportunity for development. As the new Agenda 2030 emphasises, the links and intersections between migration and development are manifold, considering migrants as key development actors. Thus, when the goal is to strengthen the positive development aspects of migration, we need to counteract the one-sided security framing of migration and focus on a crosscutting approach, highlighting the people-focused aspects of Agenda 2030 and the development potential of migrants. Reaching this cross-cutting approach towards migration starts with analysing SDG 10.7, which aims to 'facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies' and making it operational. This starts with political leadership and commitment in promoting and facilitating safe and legal routes toward EU territory as well as within the EU to meet our shared European responsibility and protect the human rights of all migrants, in particular of children. As part of this, it is essential to elaborate existing migration instruments to develop a legal framework that provides regular options for mobility for both high-skilled and low-skilled workers. Also, more humanitarian visas should be hand out allowing refugees to spend their money on regular flights, rather than being a source of finance for human smugglers, and then applying for asylum upon arrival. And, cooperation with non-EU countries on migration is human rights compliant, especially regarding EU return policies.
>
> Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible routes for everybody on the move, with special focus on the most vulnerable groups, aims to contribute effectively to the accomplishment of the main goal of the SDGs, 'leaving no one behind'. It also emphasises the EU's commitment to achieve particular SDGs, like SDG 4, promoting life learning opportunities for all, SDG 8, promoting decent work for migrant women, or SDG 10, reducing inequalities within and among countries.

(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?
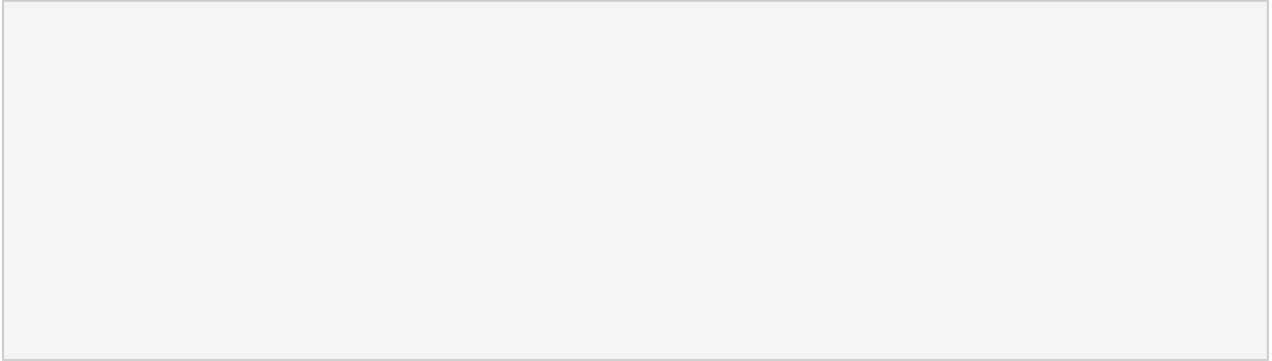
5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance (e.g. Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015", and inter alia, paragraphs 32 and 33), how and where should the EU use its Official Development Assistance strategically and to maximise its impact?
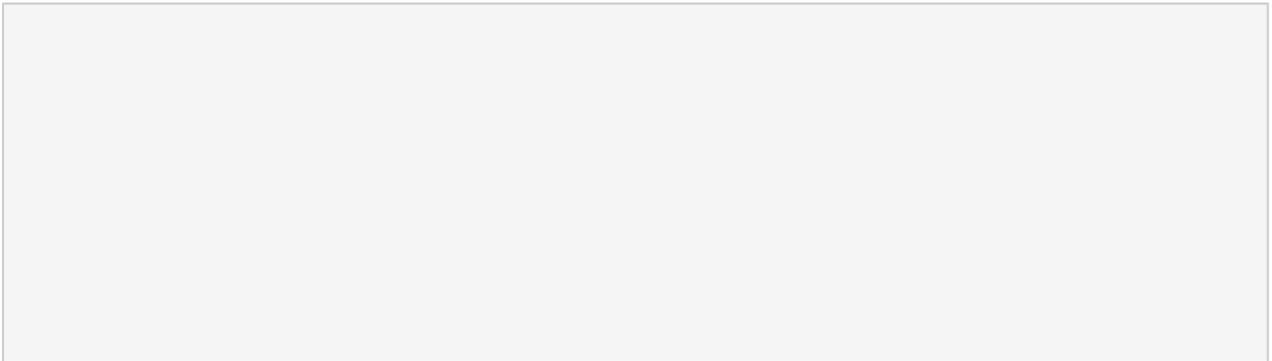
5.3 How can the EU better support partner countries in mobilising their own resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development?

> During the Financing for Development Summit in July 2015, world leaders recognised that strengthening the mobilisation and effective use of domestic resources, including improving tax revenue collection and fighting illicit flows and international tax avoidance, are critical in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specific commitments were made, including to strengthen the capacity of tax administrations and to 'make sure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies.'
>
> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda implies that also the European Union should give support to strengthening taxation systems in developing countries; should adopt strong policies against tax dodging and tax avoidance by multinationals; and should adopt measures to facilitate remittance flows from diaspora communities in Europe all the way to families in their countries of origin.

5.4 Given the importance of middle income countries to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, what form could differentiated partnerships take?
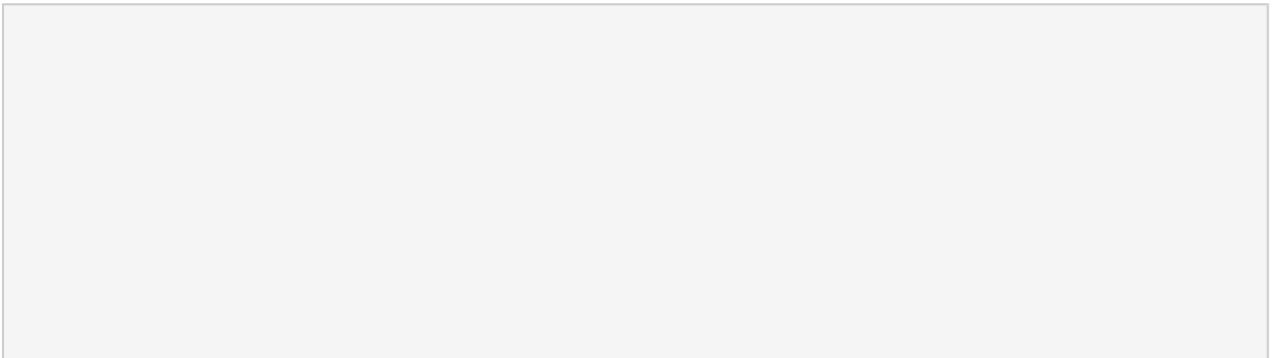
5.5 Given experience so far in taking into account the objectives of development cooperation in the implementation of EU policies which are likely to affect developing countries (e.g. Policy Coherence for Development: 2015 EU Report), how should the EU step up its efforts to achieve Policy Coherence 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?

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The European Commission should start by implementing the demands in the
latest report adopted by the European Parliament about Policy Coherence for
(Sustainable Development) (7 June 2016), especially paragraphs 5-19.

Furthermore, both for legislative and non-legislative proposals from the
European Commission a 'SDG test' should be introduced: for each new proposal
it should be made clear in which way and to which extent it contributes to
the realisation of Agenda 2030.

Finally, we recommend the EU to make use of the OECD conceptualisation of
Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. For each and every (perceived)
incoherence, it should be analysed at which level it should be addressed:
•       Coherence between global goals and national contexts
•       Coherence between different international agendas and processes
•       Coherence between economic, social and environmental development
•       Coherence between different sources of finance
•       Coherence between actions of multiple stakeholders
Only in this way a relevant response to the incoherence will be possible.
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(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?

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The SDGs affirm the importance of global partnerships to achieve goals at the
national and international level. A specific feature of the SDGs is that they
are in many ways 'inclusive'. Inclusive partnership is an emerging form of
cooperation, as well as a key strategy, which promotes sustainable growth
that includes middle and lower income groups. In addition, promoting
inclusiveness means improving the capacities of all humans through
investments in education, health, social protection, as well as enhancing the
people's access to markets so that everyone can participate in and benefit
from economic growth. In line with this concept of 'inclusiveness',
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'inclusive partnership' is literally a term that expands the scope of partnership to every development actor, such as donor agencies, governmental institutions, private companies and NGOs and even to funds and investors in order to maximise development effectiveness.

These inclusive partnerships should not be similar to a meeting of organisations who were already acquainted with each other's work, the so-called coalitions of the willing. Instead, the partnerships should consist of all those partners that are needed to effectively address a goal: a coalition of the needed. It is important that such a dialogue between development actors involves new stakeholders. Unfortunately, existing development partnerships often become institutionalised and risk aversive, thereby preventing newcomers from entering the bargaining area. A safe space for dialogue between these stakeholders is therefore of utmost importance, in which new and old stakeholders can safely consult their fellows and share dilemma's, dreams, interests and actions. In this way a truly inclusive partnership can be created in which real development impact can be reached. Leaving no one behind is not simply a matter of inviting more people to the table, but also about truly welcoming these people and facilitating their contribution to the global partnership

Steps towards an effective multi-stakeholder partnership

It is important to make the link between the nature of the problem, the responsibilities of the various partners in taking up this challenge and the most logical configuration of the partnership. Identifying partnership gaps therefore requires a proper understanding of the underlying dimensions of the problem addressed. The next steps can help stakeholders to set up such an inclusive partnership.

[a] Analytical: understanding the 'wicked' nature of the problem:
1.   Define the different dimensions of the problem;
2.   Define the context in which the issue appears;
3.   Analyse which actors are already taking up responsibilities and what they are doing.
[b] Scoping: understanding what type of partnership is needed
4.   Which stakeholders are part of the problem and/or part of the solution?
5.   Define the optimal partnership constellation: which partners should be approached?
6.   Bring these partners around the table and define a common goal and vision; also assess what crowding out effects can be anticipated.

[c] Formation and configuration
7.   Define the relevant resources for the partnership;
8.   Negotiate on a proper partnership agreement and define good monitoring and evaluation terms;
9.   Define the conditions for 'exit' e.g. when the envisioned impact is achieved, 'sufficient' crowding out is triggered, new partners are needed, or the problem changes over time.

6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?
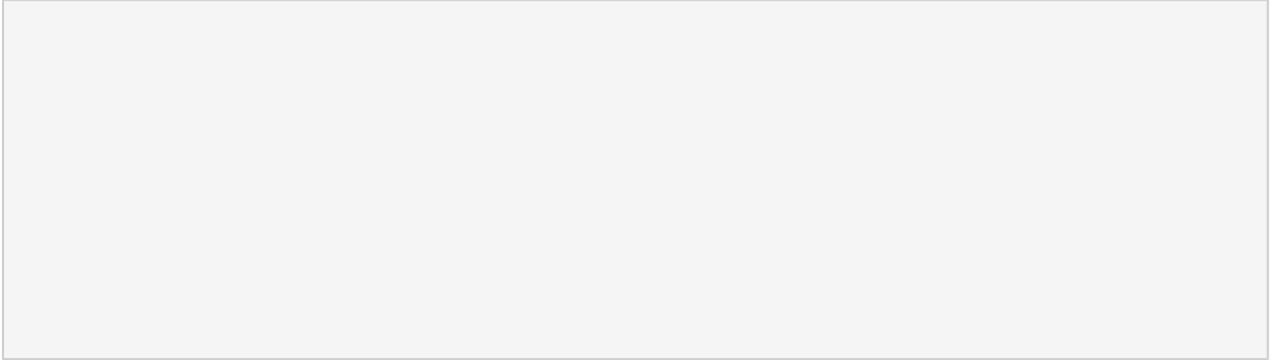
6.3 How can the EU strengthen relations on sustainable development with other countries, international financing institutions, multilateral development banks, emerging donors and the UN system?
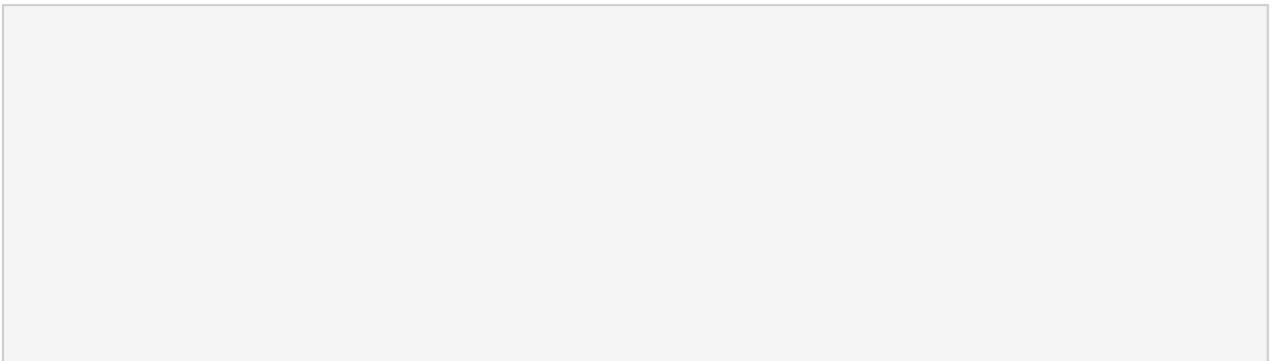
6.4 How can the EU best support partner countries to develop comprehensive and inclusive national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
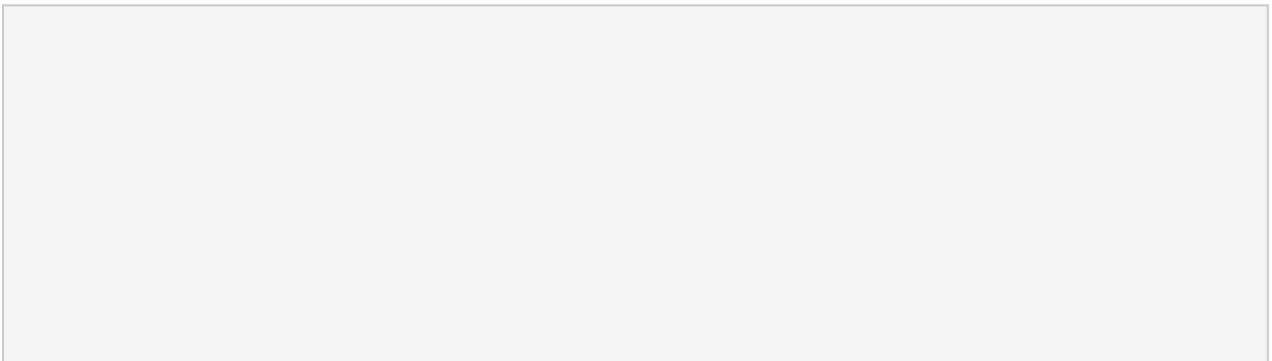
6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

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?
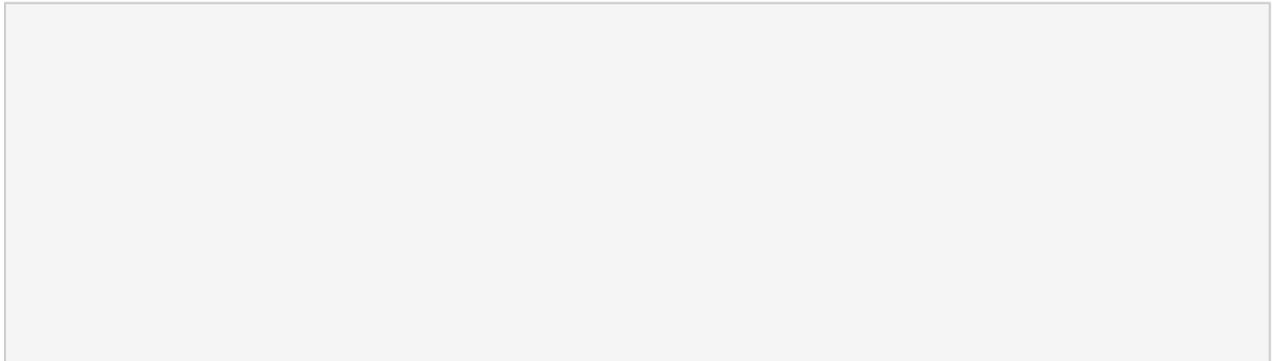
7.2 How can the EU help to ensure the accountability of all actors involved in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the private sector? How can the EU encourage a strong and robust approach to the Follow Up and Review of the 2030 Agenda from all actors?
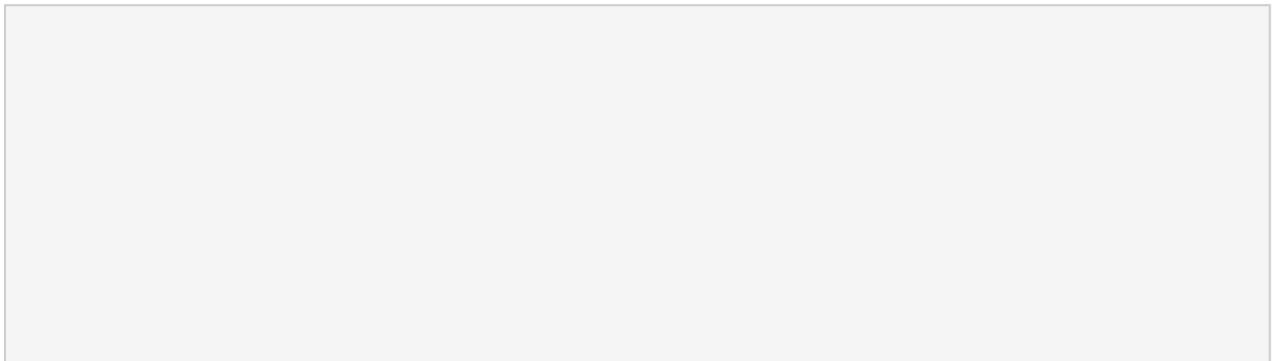
7.3 How should EU development cooperation respond to the regular reviews on progress of the partner countries towards the 2030 Agenda goals?
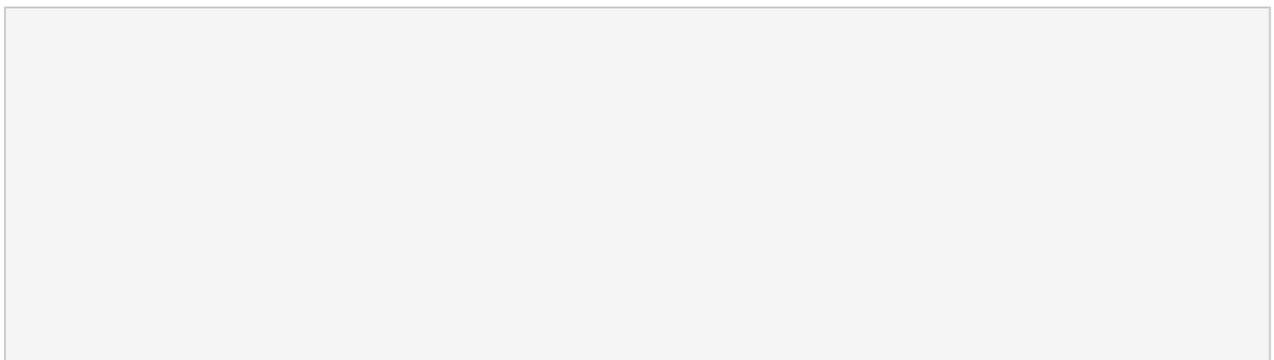
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