

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

## (2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

- \* 2.2 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?

679535014238-83

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

European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)

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

Non-Governmental Organisation

\* 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**

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

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

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

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

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

Democratization and de-democratization. The rise of democracy has resulted in an increased demand for democracy support services. At the same time, democracy has lagged and, in some cases, reversed, as its core challenges are further characterized by a devaluation of the rule of law and a decrease in political freedoms, equality, and substantive citizenship, combined with an erosion of state capacity.

Geopolitical changes: new actors with different values. Global power relations have shifted quite dramatically. China, India, Brazil, Turkey, and South Africa have become important players in the world economy, the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region is rapidly opening up, and Southeast Asia continues to be an economic success while embracing democracy. Africa has become the fastest growing continent in economic terms, while Europe has been hit hard by the continuing financial crisis. The new global economic players, however, often use a different definition of democracy, attaching less importance to political reforms and protection of human rights.

Increasingly vocal and empowered citizens. One of the strongest global trends today is the empowerment of citizens and their desire for dignity and freedom. There is a growing group of well-educated citizens who do not feel represented by the existing political elite, and they are now demanding direct influence in political affairs. As a result of this trend, the legitimacy and efficiency of nineteenth-century systems, institutions, and structures, including representative democracy and political parties, are being questioned. Representative democracy seems unable to live up to expectations and is increasingly being met with scepticism from citizens who feel detached and disenfranchised. In Europe and the United States especially, representative democracy shows alarming signs of deterioration.

Technology-driven change. Citizens are increasingly questioning traditional forms of governance and demanding transformational change, which is greatly helped by modern technology. Today, new technology is rapidly pervading all sectors of society and is changing the world's outlook on democracy. Open source software is becoming more and more accessible as it enables citizens to participate more directly in democratic processes and to influence policymaking. This trend is referred to as 'strong democracy', a system in which citizens govern themselves to the greatest extent possible.

Inequality as a major global risk. The demand for accountable governance and fair distribution of wealth are rising, as many formal democracies are still characterized by high levels of internal inequality. If this inequality is not tended to by political actors and parties, this may lead to social exclusion, marginalization, and further conflicts. Improved access to social media and communication magnifies these trends, especially amongst the rising urban and youth populations. This requires political parties to define inclusive programmatic agendas that respond to core expectations of citizens and voters when it comes to social and economic justice.

### 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?

With the view of efficiently implementing its development policy, the EU should focus much more on the 'political dimensions' of development. This includes 'deep democracy', which is understood as the need to complement formal democratic arrangements (the hardware) with substantive elements like human rights, inclusion, and equality (the software). The challenge is not to simply change governments through the ballot box, but to put in place the proper institutions, norms, and attitudes. It is indeed the software of democracy that ensures the implementation of the EU development policy on the ground.

Having an inclusive approach to development policy is essential for the EU to differentiate itself from other donors that are becoming more conditional, more thematically restricted, and more concerned to promote national interests. It is important for the EU to go against this general negative development.

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

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

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

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

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

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?

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

New thinking on development. These are exciting times for development, as the international community embraces the Busan principles (democratic ownership, multi-actor approaches, and development effectiveness) and has adopted the 2030 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals). This new framework embraces a much wider agenda and focuses much more on the 'political dimensions' of development. This includes 'deep democracy', which is understood as the need to complement formal democratic arrangements (the hardware) with substantive elements like human rights, inclusion, and equality (the software). The challenge is not to simply change governments through the ballot box, but to put in place the proper institutions, norms, and attitudes.

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?

In order to implement the 2030 Agenda to its fullest, it is important for the EU to take into account the 'political dimensions' of development through synergies between its development policy guidelines and its thematic external action guidelines. This can be attained through following and fully implementing the existing EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy (2015). The EU must ensure that human rights and democracy are respected but it must also mainstream concerns for these core principles into all its external actions, including its development policy.

4.5 In which areas does the EU have greatest value-added as a development partner (e.g. which aspects of its development policy, dialogue or implementation arrangements or in which category of countries)?

The greatest quality of the EU as a development partner is its ability to adopt a dual approach by having a development policy that encompasses the different actors and aspects of the development process. The EU is a partner to both governments, helping to the good functioning of national institutions, and NGOs, supporting local CSOs in their work in the field.

#### 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?

Equality should be paramount in the EU development policy as equal representation in decision-making is essential to ensure the representativeness and accountability of democratic processes. Supporting equality in decision-making is the best way to support equality in access to economic and social development. This is especially important to be sure to reach women, youth and other marginalized groups that are often seen as objects, and not subjects of policy-making, barring them from helping design policies attending to their specific needs.

In order to be able to support equality in decision-making, it is essential to address the cultural beliefs that are behind current gender inequality. Women's access to politics is seriously hampered by stereotypical beliefs and attitudes prevalent in society and actively practiced and reproduced by men and women alike. Very often, the media play a key role in reaffirming or enlarging this branding of women as caretakers, unfit for public office.

The 2030 Agenda should be implemented by the EU with a special focus on goals 5 and 16, which would translate by sufficient resources being allocated to European development actors that focus on supporting equal, just and peaceful societies. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is also to be aligned with the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy (2015) as they share similar visions on how to address inequalities.

To ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, having relevant indicators is essential. Only through detailed indicators can the actions implemented to meet the SDGs be monitored and reviewed properly. This represents a challenge that the EU has to work on with Member States statistical offices and the EU appropriate mechanisms and institutions to provide examples of relevant indicators for all targets. This can allow the EU to put a special emphasis on disaggregated data, which is key to have a clear picture of the effects of the actions on different groups. This will contribute to fulfilling the main motto of the SDGs: leave no one behind.

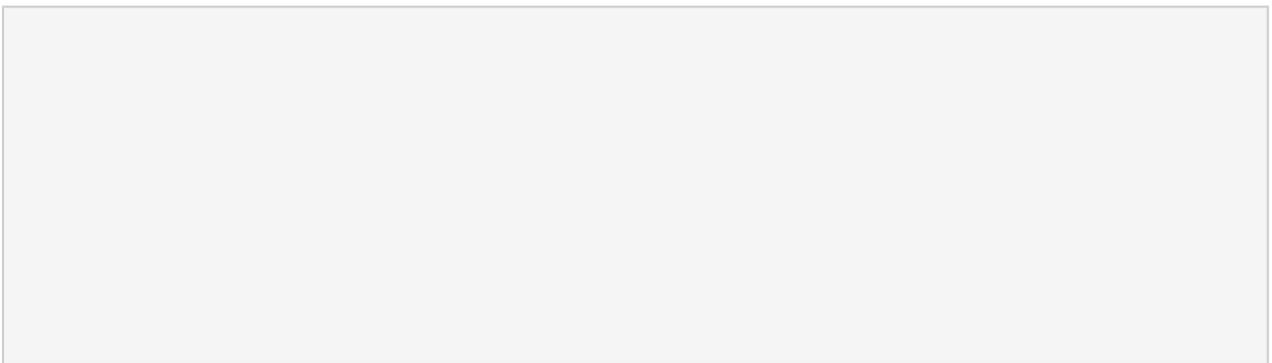
4.7 How can the EU development policy make a stronger contribution to the security of people? How can EU development policy contribute to addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility and contribute to security and resilience in all the countries where we work?

It is in countries governed by legally elected, accountable and representative multi-party systems that security and peace are best maintained. It is thus important for the EU to be investing more on assistance to democratic institutions and movements, while also encouraging cooperation between parties and actors around the world.

In the context of conflicts, people are often excluded from resources and decision-making processes. It is thus essential to expand citizens' possibilities to participate in decision-making and to guarantee that all citizens are able to benefit from economic growth. These are key mechanisms to deal with the causes of conflicts and poverty.

The EU must implement inclusiveness in its conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts by making women, youth, minorities and other traditionally excluded groups, key players in its development policy. It is equally important to include political parties in conflict management and peacebuilding, as well as to acknowledge their essential role in conflict resolution and in leading the development initiatives of their countries. The development of a pluralist, deep-rooted democratic culture in a country goes through the support to political parties and multi-party systems.

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



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

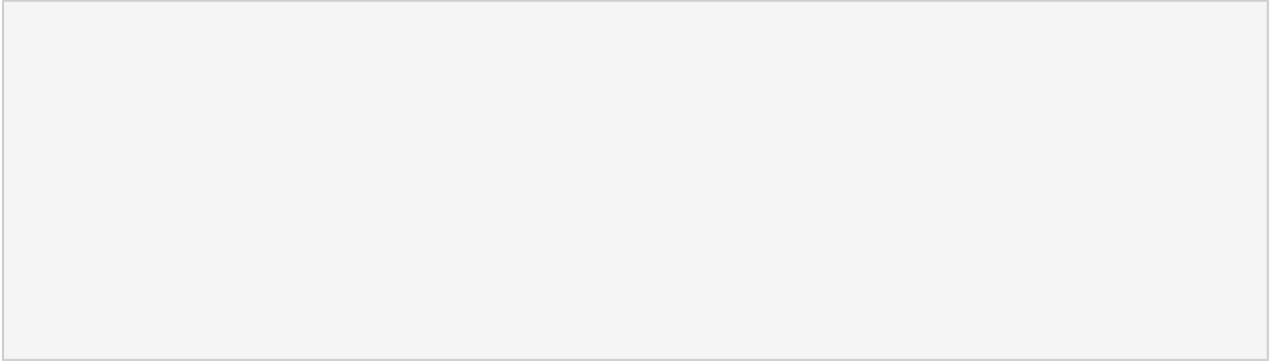
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The principle of universality underpinning the 2030 Agenda will require a differentiated approach to engagement with countries at all levels of development. Official Development Assistance will continue to play an important role in the overall financing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

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

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

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



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?

The commitment to meet the ODA/GNI targets on the basis of paragraphs 32 and 33 of the Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 is welcomed and represent a necessary condition in order to mobilise effectively financial resources for development. However, if funding is allocated to address specific issues without the necessary knowledge of dynamics and relations of power between all the actors involved, the impact of ODA risks to be limited and resources might be wasted.

The allocation of funds should be preceded by an in-depth assessment of the situation in the field, taking into consideration needs and interests of all stakeholders. Country-specific approaches often turn out to be insufficient to meet expected goals, due to their tendency to paint a portrait of issues primarily at national level. This approach risks overlooking regional differences and local issues, which can ultimately be the reason why a specific project fails in reaching its initial objectives.

In some cases, local authorities can be better equipped and prepared than the national administration in tackling a specific issue, thus might represent a better option than national government as a destination of funding. Customary sources of power might be likewise important, especially in young democracies and weak States. For this, unofficial power relations must be considered too.

In general, a more politically aware approach would help better understand power relations and local issues, allowing a more effective allocation of ODA resources and a clearer vision on needs and priorities of the local population. Political parties only receive 0.1% of ODA, despite a growing number of development and democracy support practitioners agreeing that aid needs to take politics into account. A stronger support to political parties would produce a more "politically informed" kind of assistance, increasing the effectiveness of development aid and, consequently, opportunities for equitable economic and human development.

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

The potential of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in developing countries is often underexploited, but local actors have the deepest knowledge on the issues that affect a determined area and the best ways to deal with them. For this reason, the EU should thus provide stronger support to local CSOs, empowering their knowledge of local issues and the network of stakeholders they are part of. Considering their privileged position, CSOs might also be more aware of the needs of the population than government agencies and public officials.

Political parties are the actors that provide a link between the State and society. By strengthening their role, the EU can allow parties to better voice the citizens' concerns by influencing policy-makers and lobbying for investing more resources in poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Due to their oversight function, Parliaments can also play an important role in making governments accountable for their decisions. Parliaments are indeed able to influence the priorities of the government's expenditure not only with oversight powers, but also by amending the budget, thus playing a central role in public financial management. The strengthening of parliaments is obtained not only through the empowerment of MPs, but also through investments in infrastructures (ICTs, for instance) and training of the permanent staff.

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

The 2030 Agenda is addressed to countries that are very different in terms of size, wealth, social and economic model, structural problems and geographical position. For this reason, the EU must avoid tackling single issues in the same way for each country. One-size-fits-all approaches have proved ineffective – sometimes even deleterious – for social and economic development.

In the 2011 Agenda for Change, the EU mentions differentiation as one of the key principles of its development policy. When it is important to take into account the overall level of economic development of a country when designing development aid, it is even more crucial to have a detailed understanding of its internal political context. Development aid is provided through programmes and projects that have to encompass the intricate web of actors that are involved in their implementation on the ground. These target groups, may they be CSOs, political parties or parliaments, have to be considered subjects, and not objects of development aid.

Differentiation is an important principle to follow but development aid should not only differentiate between countries but also between sub-national regions, local authorities and types of actors in order to provide tailor-made support that has the best chances of being effective and long-lasting.

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

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

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An important feature of the new Agenda is that all governments, developed and developing, will need to work with a wide range of stakeholders (including the private sector, civil society and research institutions) to improve the transparency and inclusivity of decision-making, planning, service delivery, and monitoring and to ensure synergy and complementarity.

The EU must continue to work collaboratively with others and contribute to a coordinated approach. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda puts national plans for implementation (including associated financing and policy frameworks) at the centre. To maximise our impact, EU development policy should be based on a strategic and comprehensive strategy for each country, which also responds to the country-specific context.

Our partner countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda will inform our overall engagement and our development cooperation dialogue with them and will help shape our support for their national efforts. The EU should also help partner countries put in place the necessary enabling policy frameworks to eradicate poverty, tackle sustainable development challenges and enhance their policy coherence.

There is a need for a renewed emphasis on the quality of development cooperation, including existing commitments on aid and development effectiveness made in Paris, Accra and Busan\* and through work with the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#).

An updated EU development policy should also provide a shared vision that guides the action of the EU and Member States in development cooperation, putting forward proposals on how to further enhance coordination, complementarity and coherence between EU and Member States. Strengthening [Joint Programming](#) will be an important part of this. Improving the division of labour between the EU and its Member States in order to reduce aid fragmentation will also contribute to increased development effectiveness.

\* See [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action](#) and the [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#)

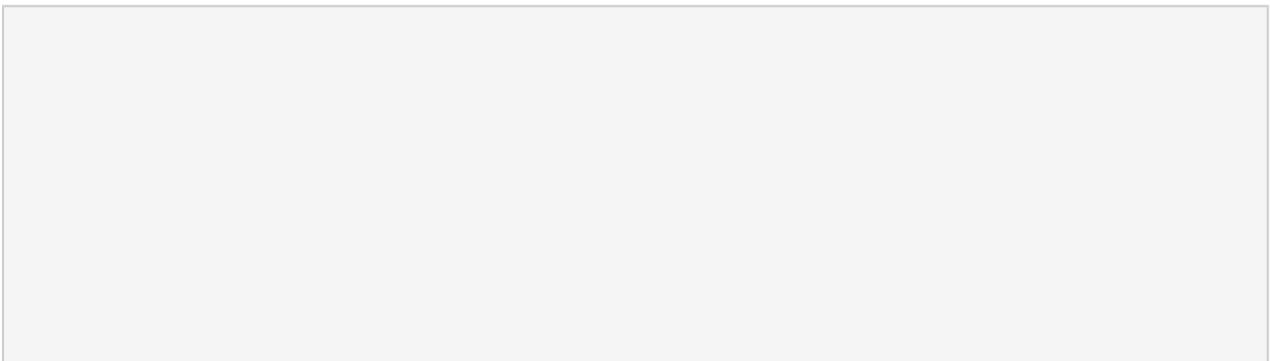
## 6.1 How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?

Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, both emphasise the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies as a necessity for achieving sustainable development. In order for the EU to foster inclusive societies through its development aid, it is essential to have a thorough knowledge of the field. Having a clear picture of local stakeholders and how they interact with each other is important to grasp local politics dynamics and power relations. Actually, the study of socioeconomic issues will prove insufficient if decision-makers are not taken into account.

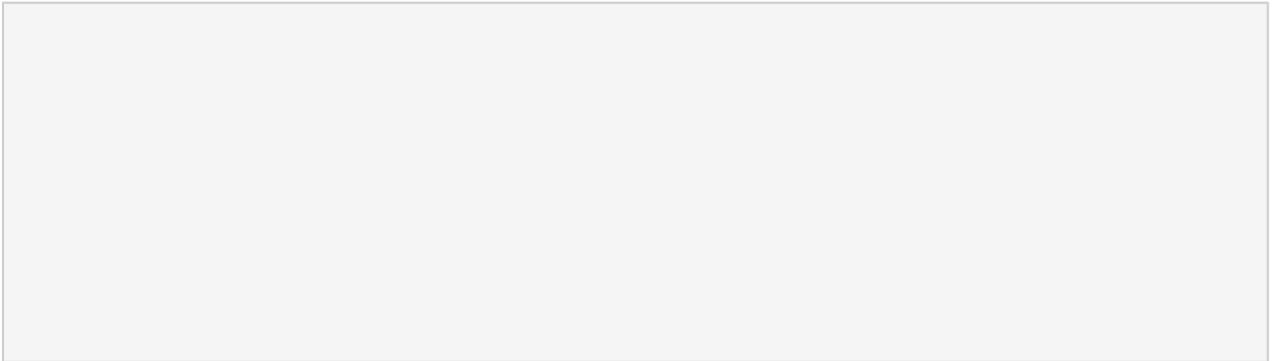
Inclusiveness can be achieved by supporting multi-stakeholder dialogues that will raise awareness among the different types of actors of the possibilities for cross-cutting partnerships to provide efficient solutions to achieve sustainable development. There is a need for a stronger focus towards civil society and actors working on a subnational level as they might have a better grasp of the situation on the ground than the national administration.

At the local level, fostering partnerships between different types of actors is a two-way street. On the one hand, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) need to be empowered to go beyond service providing and learn how to make their voice heard in order to influence policy-making. This can be achieved through training, capacity building and fostering peer exchange on the ground to broaden the field of action of CSOs. On the other hand, political parties and parliaments need to be given the means to serve as links between CSOs and the government, as well as the national administration. EU development aid can help reach that goal by supporting study visits from political actors of partner countries to empower MPs and political parties but also through supporting strong political institutions that assure effective communication channels between political actors and the government.

## 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?

In order to develop truly inclusive and comprehensive plans that tackle effectively specific issues, the EU must balance the need of involving the largest possible number of stakeholders without making programmes too broad and vague to be effective.

The activity of the EU institutions vis-à-vis national and local authorities, civil society organisations, political organisations and private citizens must focus on specific problems, but also take into consideration possible implications on other social and economic issues. In this case, CSOs and private local organisations often have the most advanced knowledge of the situation on the field and have a clear vision on major issues and priorities, while government bodies have more resources at their disposal. Considering this, multi-stakeholder partnerships could be encouraged in order to better exploit the strengths of each actor involved and share knowledge, expertise and resources.

To be comprehensive, plans cannot uniquely address specific issues, but also have to take into consideration the support to values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The effects of specific programmes might turn out vain if they are not contextually accompanied by the strengthening of accountable institutions and democratically elected bodies. Considering the proved beneficial long term effects of democracy, both on political stability and social and economic development, the EU must support partner countries underlining the importance of such values and stressing their relevance over short-term interests.

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?

The EU should put in place consultations and dialogues with partner countries and civil society organisations at all level. This would allow to gather better information about the matter at stake, interests, priorities and needs of actors involved, thus coming up with comprehensive analysis of the situation in the field and more politically aware solutions.

A lack of sufficiently deep knowledge about the situation of a country or a specific issue is often one of the reasons why a certain number of programmes turn out to be less effective. More human and financial resources should be invested to improve the analysis phase, to be conducted beforehand planning and implanting projects. Approaches should be holistic and must involve partners in partner countries at all levels.

Regular monitoring is also necessary in order to ensure that developments respect benchmarks and deadlines and meet the expected results. A constant supervision allows a quicker reaction to possible shortcomings, making easier to redress problems.

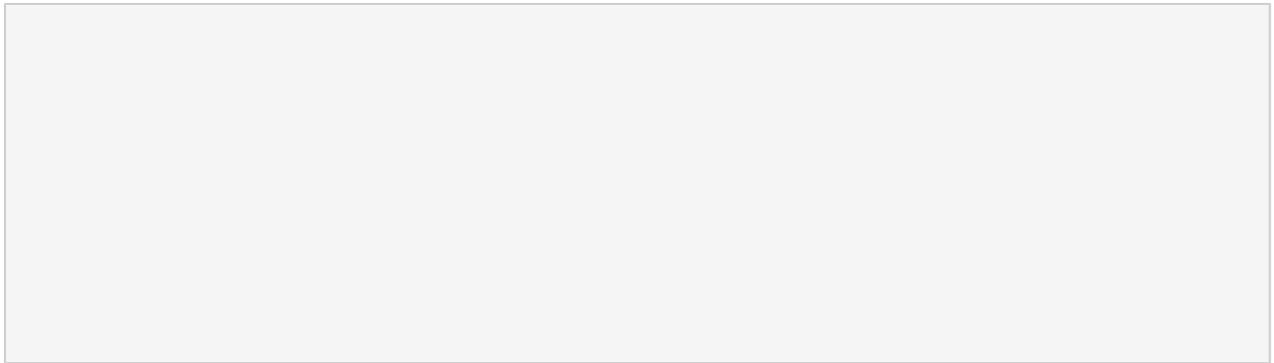
6.7 What further progress could be made in EU Joint Programming, and how could this experience be linked with other EU joined-up actions in supporting countries' delivery of the 2030 Agenda?

## (7) Keeping track of progress

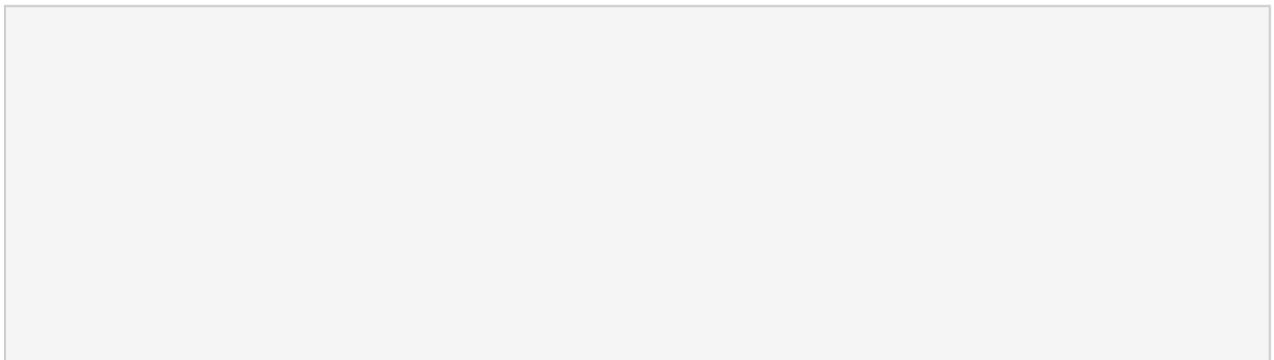
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The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting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

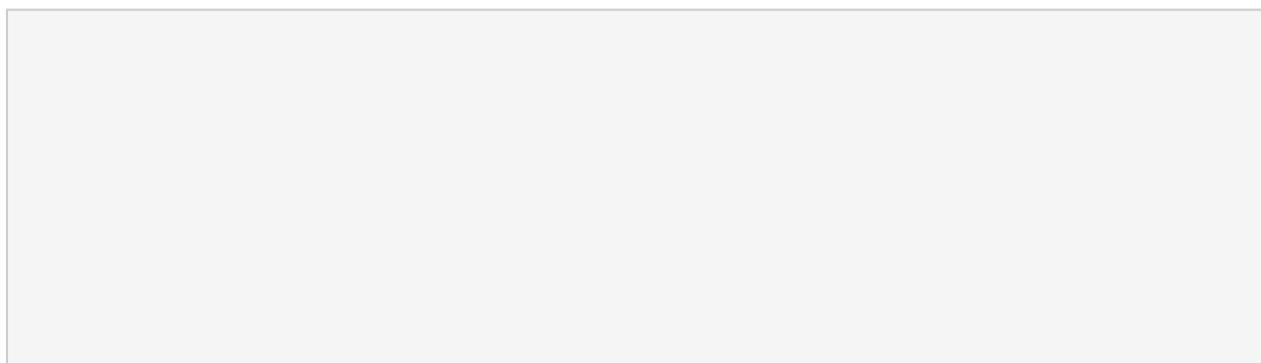
7.1 How can the EU strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis, including in the development field, to feed into its regular review on the Sustainable Development Goals to the UN?



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



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



**Contact**

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