

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

- 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

Government institution

* 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

Czech Republic (see answer to question 2.4.)

(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?

Global trends are complex and interlinked - but peace and security and mitigation of poverty and hunger remain basic prerequisites for sustainable development, as is recognized in the Agenda 2030. EU action should therefore focus on supporting partner countries and regions in their efforts to secure food security, peace, political stability, human security and human rights, while focusing on mainstreaming the societal and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Once the stability is achieved, the economic development, and mainly the job creation, income generation and livelihoods opportunities' support are the most important goals. In order to deliver on the Agenda 2030, the economic growth including agriculture development must, however, be socially and environmentally sustainable. Therefore, a high degree of attention must be paid to related social challenges, such as unequal opportunities for human development, incl. gender issues, and to environmental challenges, incl. climate change adaptation.)

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?

The EU policies, both internal and external, should focus on the implementation of the SDGs which provides a universal „to do list“. Regarding the external dimension, and development policy in particular, the highest attention should be paid to SDG 16 (promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice, effective, accountable institutions) which constitutes the basic framework for achieving sustainable development. The EU also needs to focus on SDG17 - on strengthening of means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for development. To support successful implementation of all SDGs and better harness opportunities and minimise negative aspects, the EU should use all relevant instruments incl. own experience in tackling these challenges, and should work with all relevant actors including international organizations. The policy coherence, as well as the comprehensive approach towards external EU action will be key. EU could become a pioneer in a real PC/S/D policy and action. Member States should be fully involved in the process. ODA should be used as catalyst in SDG implementation process in partner countries, based on solid evidence and joint analysis in order to contribute to sustainable development of EU partners. We welcome that SDGs are reflected in the recently released EU Global Strategy. They should also be streamlined in future post-Cotonou framework.

(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.

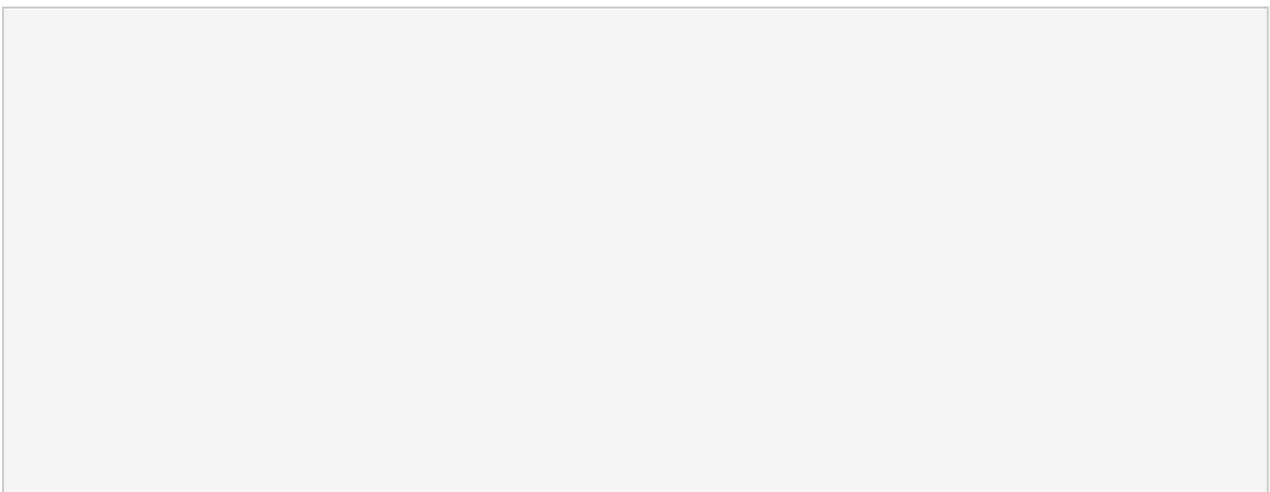
4.1 How can the EU better address the links between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and addressing other global sustainable development challenges?

Increased and coherent EU support to countries striving to implement the Agenda 2030, AAAAA, outcomes of the UNFCCC Paris agreement, Sendai DRR Framework etc. will be key. The breadth of the new global agenda implies a need to take an integrated approach to EU development policy programming (think about the connections, synergies and multipliers) in order to identify actions that can move forward a broader range of interlinked goals. Integrated approach is essential and at the heart of the ASD2030 - without such an approach, there is a significant threat of creating new siloes and increased fragmentation. In this sense, a re-examination of the impact of EU aid is needed, especially in the case of the geographical instruments of EU development policy (such as the European Neighbourhood Instrument, ENI).

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?

Integrating the economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions of sustainable development into EU development policy will be needed at every stage of the policy cycle (policy formulation, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation). Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) should be strengthened as a policy tool to systematically integrate all dimensions of sustainable development into general policymaking. Comprehensive approach, based on broad analysis, and joint programming should be further explored. Concerning the role of EU institutions in promoting PCSD, the Council should be using various and frequent high-level opportunities to promote and emphasize the role of PCSD, which still is one of the main pillars of the EU development policy.

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



- focus on implementation of the recently agreed global development agenda, incl. SDGs - the EU should be leading by its own example;
- the EU should maintain and further deepen strong focus on SDG 16 in particular (good governance and well functioning public sector), on goals relating to decent jobs and socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth, protection of the environment (incl. adequate addressing of climate change), social and human development (incl. women's empowerment), respect for human rights.
- diversified EU support depending on the regional and country context (tailored differently to LDCs, MICs, fragile states etc.) and to each national setting. Put emphasis on partnerships with non state actors, mainly civil society and the private sector and on effective cooperation between public, private and CSO sectors.
- based on the above, we would like to see in the new EU development policy two (recently missing) areas - security/development nexus and sustainable involvement of private sector. Security is a prerequisite for any development and private sector is a means to create decent jobs and prosperity, if right regulatory frameworks are in place. Special focus should be placed on the support and involvement of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- EU development cooperation should contribute to building of equal partnerships with our partner countries, based on common goals and mutual interests. Partner countries ' efforts to make progress have to be inclusively considered in all areas (incl. effective management of migratory flows) and should be taken as indicative for enhanced cooperation. Recently established Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration can serve as a useful model of cooperation with partner countries. Simultaneously, cooperation in areas such as migration, development and neighborhood policy can reinforce local capacities in partner countries as whole.
- deepen the impact of EU development policy through evidence based decision making, consistent action, comprehensive partnerships, strengthened policy coherence for development, joint programming where relevant, innovative approaches and instruments allowing for flexibility. In this sense, much more should be done to demonstrate and communicate results of EU policy in this area (rather than ensuring visibility, the EU should focus on communicating priorities, challenges and impacts). Ensure that this approach is aligned with with MS' activities.
- the new development policy should build upon the experience of all Member States, taking more advantage of the fact that a lot of MS have themselves recently undergone a successful development/transition process; best practices and lessons learnt should be shared with EU partners;
- we would appreciate a strong focus of the new Consensus on the implementation of the EU development policy, specifying different instruments to be used. The tools should be tailored to different contexts and countries. Following instruments should be considered: technical assistance, twinning, thematic programmes, instruments involving private sector with special focus on MSMEs (micro-credits, de-risking schemes, investment incentives, blending), delegated cooperation, comprehensive approach as a general working method and joint programming where relevant. Some of these instruments are also referred to below.

4.4 In which areas highlighted above would you expect to see greater consistency between development policy and other areas of the EU external action in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

SDGs implementation will require concerted efforts of all EU external policies and of all relevant stakeholders. In particular, EU should work on better coordination of humanitarian aid and development cooperation and improve both the horizontal (between the ECHO – DEVCO services and EEAS) and vertical interaction (with the Member States). There is also untapped potential of joint policy-making and use of resources between DEVCO, ECHO and other Directorates General (NEAR, TRADE, ENER or AGRI) and EU services (such as EEAS), to achieve common goals.

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

The EU as a major international player leads by example and can share its own experience – it should be also the case of implementing SDGs (demonstrate how to put in place or adapt existing policies, institutions and processes; integrate the targets into national plans, sectoral strategies and budgets through transparent and participatory processes). As a development partner, the biggest value added of EU development cooperation is that of collective action with potential of real development impact – therefore building a strong shared vision of EU development cooperation is of key importance. From the geographical point of view, we see the EU's added value in its neighborhood and in the areas where it can offer its own direct experience (such as transition experience), as well as in LDCs who are most in need of aid. The EU also has a recognised added value in supporting regional integration.

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?

In dealing with the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and political and social drivers of inequality and social exclusion, the EU development cooperation needs to use broader range of approaches incl. the human development/human rights-based approach which focuses on improving people's lives by providing them with choices/opportunities and with possible drivers for transition. Its integral principle is reinforced in gender equality and women's empowerment. EU development policy should also adopt accessibility and inclusion as its crosscutting principle to ensure that development programmes are open for everyone and 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?

EU responses demand strong coordination and coherent approach in this area, both vertically (with Member States) as well as horizontally (across the EU institutions). Better interaction is needed between the humanitarian aid and development cooperation (sharing operational expertise, lessons learnt, facilitate an early entry strategy for development actors) as well as joint planning and flexible financial tools. Food security, access to drinking water and sustainable agriculture is a major challenge and the main condition for ensuring general security.

Better link between CSDP missions and development cooperation is needed, combining long-term development perspective/analysis with more operational and short-term CSDP missions. The pre-requisite is a common evidence based analysis of the particular country/regional context which could be delivered by EU comprehensive approach and joint programming.

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?

The EU is currently working on channeling EU assistance better to respond to the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in a targeted manner and on improving partner countries' capacities to manage migration. EU development policy should better focus on the links between migration and development in order to ensure that migration becomes an option for the people and not a necessity. As migration is about people's choice, the EU needs to find comprehensive solutions to provide (especially young) people in partner countries with jobs and economic opportunities as well as decent standards of living. Other possibilities should be also explored in the framework of legal migration. Future development policy should also work in coherence with other EU policies to harness the power of migration - as mentioned above (4.3.), effectively link EU development, migration and neighborhood policies.

(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?

In the first place, the EU should continue to use EU aid to help developing countries to mobilize domestic resources and to attract more private investment. In order to do that, the EU should support partner countries in building appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks and tax systems as well as functioning basic technical infrastructure. The EU should also further work on its aid quality in line with development effectiveness principles. The EU development funds should encourage partnerships of the EU private sector with its local counterparts, with special focus on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This support, including through different de-risking financial schemes, should leverage long-term private engagement in more difficult and risky environments. The EU support should streamline socially and environmentally sustainable private investments. Only genuine interest of the private sector can at the end lead to its long-term engagement in partner countries and win-win solutions.

The EU will need to implement policies that serve to align the larger share of private flows with the SDGs implementation. Important will be cooperation with other relevant actors and especially development finance institutions, including the EIB, in order to better leverage financing flows (public and private). The involvement of MSMEs in different schemes is crucial, as their role in providing solid basis for employment and economic growth is unique (in the partner countries as well as in the EU).

5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance (e.g. [Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"](#)), and inter alia, paragraphs 32 and 33), how and where should the EU use its Official Development Assistance strategically and to maximise its impact?

ODA is one important part of the answer to deliver on the SDGs and will remain critical to reaching the most in need. Therefore, the EU should target its ODA to most vulnerable countries and critical fields (such as food security), make its programmes as accessible and inclusive as possible and look into new ways of increasing the impact of its aid. Greatest added value of EU policies is in partner countries where for a variety of reasons EU MS have a limited presence – often in "fragile states" or LDCs. This is also an important prerequisite for an integrated EU approach to the implementation ASD2030.

For more advanced countries, the ODA should be used as a catalyst for socially and environmentally sustainable economic growth, mainly through technical assistance/advice in order to put in place the right regulatory frameworks, or as a strategic leverage to generate private investment, with special focus on MSMEs. While decreasing grant allocation for MICs, sound exit strategies in countries with a phase-out plan need to be developed. Building synergies with multilateral organisations that have accumulated considerable experience in working in difficult contexts is essential: the EU should continue to promote an international system based on stronger multilateral co-operation while ensuring that the chosen multilateral ODA-related channels for allocating EU funds are ones with proven added value.

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

Domestic resources mobilisation remains the most sustainable form of financing to achieve the SDGs. The EU should primarily support partner countries' efforts and capacities to mobilize own resources through fair taxation, combat illicit financial flows, and help them to access other international public resources in combination with private financing. The local, subnational level is key – therefore providing support to local governments and thus increasing their technical and financial capacities should be an EU priority. At the same time, EU needs to support prevention of tax dodging and illicit financial flows as well as promotion of the CSR at the international level.

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

As mentioned in 5.2., the ODA should be used in MICs as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth, mainly through technical assistance/advice or as a strategic leverage to generate private investment, with special focus on MSMEs. Future EU cooperation with middle-income countries can take form of thematic programmes, twinning, transfer of know-how, exchange of best practices, blending, guarantees, de-risking financial schemes, equity funds, etc.

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?

The scope of the policy coherence agenda has expanded and requires new PCD tools to better reflect today's more complex policy inter-linkages (whole-of-government approaches, strengthened institutional coordination, involvement of other stakeholders from public, private and CSO sectors with specific focus on representation of those most vulnerable). PCD is important area where the EU and its member states can share their own experience and assist partner countries/ regional organizations to pursue national/regional policies that are in line with international development goals, and to examine and challenge incoherent policies in specific sectors.

(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?

The EU should further support and deepen participatory and innovative approaches and explore new forms of multi-stakeholder partnerships between businesses, civil society, government and science and multi-stakeholder initiatives, based on transparency, accountability and ownership. Special attention needs to be paid to the representation of the most vulnerable and to the role of the CSOs incl. in the policy-making process.

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

Appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks are key to support sustainable development through investment. The EU should help partner countries to improve the enabling environment for business and investment, including in specific sectors and promote responsible investment and business conduct. As mentioned in 5.1., the EU development funds should also encourage partnerships of the EU private sector with its local counterparts, with special focus on micro, small and medium enterprises. This support, including through different de-risking financial schemes, should leverage long-term private engagement in more difficult and risky environments. The EU support should streamline socially and environmentally sustainable private investment. The EU support should also be used in order to enhance capabilities of domestic banks to be able to develop support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, active at the local level, to better access (micro)finance. Credit guarantees for development (also blended with grants) can be an efficient tool in leveraging private finance at all levels.

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?

By developing common strategies on common priorities (such as SDG 16 - for ex. on the implementation of this goal can the EU work more closely with UNDP, etc.).

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

The EU can assist partner countries in developing an integrated framework to anchor the Agenda 2030 at national and local levels and to mainstream it into national strategies. The EU can provide partner countries with evidence and analysis in order to identify the right policy choices and actions that will cover a broader range of development goals; it can help them to build ownership by national stakeholders and to establish monitoring and review frameworks, incl. by strengthening of national capacities to collect and analyse information to monitor progress.

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?

Synergies between MS and EU in the coordination of external policies are needed to ensure greater impact of EU action, incl. in development cooperation. Therefore consistency of action and complementarity/division of tasks at partner country level, while taking advantage of the potential of all MS, should be integral parts of the new EU development consensus. Comprehensive approach and, where appropriate, joint programming, are the tools to be further explored.

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 can be more effective in the way it reaches out to the drivers of change in developing countries - identify who are the actors that can really bring change and then provide support to these actors. The EU should make its development partnerships more tailored, focused and operational, mobilising the right policy and instrument mix for each country - ranging from "traditional" aid to more innovative ways of cooperation (without undermining aid integrity and effectiveness). The EU choices should be based on broad and representative political, social and economic analysis, prepared jointly with MS (the role of the EU Delegations and MS Embassies is key in this regard!) and partner countries and all relevant development stakeholders, including non-state actors and CSOs. Special focus should be paid to the representation of the most vulnerable.

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?

Joint programming plays an important role in aid effectiveness efforts and can also deliver on the afore-mentioned joint analysis of the partner countries, which can then inform further policy and instrument choices. However, the local context and dynamics are key in this process. Therefore, it has to stay as flexible as possible and tailored to local needs. Potential obstacles and incentives should be identified and the process further clarified in order to encourage EU institutions and Member states to further engage in it.

(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?

The EU needs a robust results framework to continually keep track of progress of EU development policy, enhance accountability, transparency and visibility of EU aid. The EU should further deepen its results oriented approach, also by further deepening consultative partnerships with CSOs/research institutions /think-tanks, adapt objectives and indicators to SDG framework to be able to effectively report on the basis of sufficient and reliable data. The EU should share experiences from EU's SDGs monitoring with developing countries and with broader SDG monitoring efforts (methodology, challenges, etc.)

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?

The EU can help to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that all relevant actors are familiar with the commitments that have been made, with their rights, and that they are empowered to engage in implementation and accountability processes. Bigger focus should be placed on strengthening national level of the accountability process between states and non-state actors, particularly addressing the barriers that prevent the participation of specific groups. The EU should support regional accountability mechanisms which should be also open and inclusive.

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

National reviews should provide for interactive dialogue among UN member states and other stakeholders. The EU should participate in this interactive dialogue by providing views on the shared successes, challenges and recommendations for further implementation.

Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu
