

## **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

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

ChildPact

- 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

ChildPact is a regional coalition of more than 650 child-focused NGOs that advocates for greater child protection reform in the Southeast Europe and South Caucasus subregions. Established in 2011, ChildPact is a coalition of coalitions: its members are national networks of child-focused NGOs from 10 countries within the European Union's Enlargement and Neighbourhood areas.

## \* 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

ChildPact is registered in Bucharest, Romania.

## (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?

The demographic and welfare trends in the EU's neighbouring and enlargement areas show that while the general population is aging, the younger generation of citizens is more exposed to poverty than ever before. The economic crisis has affected not only the EU Member States, but also the countries in their proximity, deepening the child poverty rates in the region. Even more, children remain among the most socially and economically vulnerable groups at

the EU's borders. Crime, poverty, conflict and discrimination are the seeds of destruction in the lives of families and their children.

Child abuse, poverty and vulnerability negatively impact the overall stability and prosperity in the neighbourhood because these issues represent a major waste of human potential and a drain of resources. What is more, child poverty only encourages new generations of vulnerability and disadvantaged which do not lead to a stable and prosperous EU neighbourhood.

Societies should invest in children not only as a moral duty, but also for economic reasons. Economists show that a growing and skilled labour force is fundamental for economic development in the long-term. Children of today are not only consumers (benefiting from services and goods through their parents or care-takers), but they are the future labour force, the future taxpayers and the future economic trend-setters.

Child abuse equates significant economic losses. Research has shown that children who are abandoned, abused or severely neglected can face significant life risks that are costly to society, including lower earnings, poorer education achievement, and higher consumption of health services through old age and greater risk of incarceration. Investments, particularly in early childhood lead to significant reductions in infant and child mortality, future criminal activity, drug use/abuse, and costs of social services. In the US, the direct and indirect costs of child maltreatment were calculated at \$94 billion a year, or one percent of the country's GDP - including \$3 billion in hospitalization, \$425 million on mental health treatment and \$14.4 billion on child welfare costs alone.

Child labour reduces productivity in the long-term. Millions of children in our region are involved in child labour. Experts proved this has major negative effects on children's access to basic education and skills development. It also reduces their productivity and marketability in long term. Child labourers tend to earn less income later in life, while their children will also work at a young age, repeating the poverty cycle.

Failing to invest in child health severely impacts health care budgets. Child abuse, violence and neglect have a particularly negative impact on children's health and nutrition. Ongoing lifetime treatment of chronic diseases linked to early-stage malnutrition impacts negatively the healthcare budgets over longer periods. Healthcare expenditures linked to stunting, iodine deficiency and iron deficiency are estimated to account for roughly two percent of China's annual GDP and three percent in India.

School drop-out leads to weak human capital. Too many children in our region abandon school due to poverty and other factors. Discrepancies in educational quality are particularly problematic from an employment perspective. The widening gap between the lack of basic education and the increasing demand for workers with post-primary education and specific technical skills is a very serious issue. Too often in our region school fails to equip students with basic numeracy and literacy skills, which means they will subsequently struggle to provide the specialized knowledge demanded by the worldwide

knowledge economy.

Marginalized adolescents can contribute to raising security concerns. Marginalized adolescents are more likely to engage in domestic violence and risky behaviours such as illicit drug-taking, crime and gang participation. Large populations of frustrated teenagers ('youth bulge') represent a growing domestic security concern: out of 119 countries examined, 40 percent reported significant increases in social unrest since 2010. Giving older children and youth a better chance of employment not only helps them realize their potential, but also helps to ensure that national economies receive the needed skills for continued growth.

### 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?

1. The EU should lead and join actions aimed to strengthen regional cooperation for development. In the context of widespread poverty and inequalities between nations and within regions, there is a new urgency to use regional cooperation as a means towards progressive and innovative tools to address the challenges that no one nation can solve on its own. (1) Regional cooperation provides a platform to share scarce resources and for small states to access capacity and expertise unavailable at the local level. (2) Together, there is a comparative advantage in pooling expertise and resources; the ability to create effective strategies to respond to region-wide issues that face children is an essential asset for impact. (3) Regional cooperation for development should start with child issues. As a non-sensitive issue, regional cooperation on child protection opens the door to new relationships and trust between governments. Opportunities to pursue peace and greater security in the region should start with children.

2. A better coordination of EU policies and an alignment of EU actors' agenda are required for efficiently tackling poverty in the neighbourhood. The EU should be consistent in all its policy priorities and seek their implementation through all ways - for instance, the new European Neighbouring Policy should be better aligned with the Agenda 2030 development agenda and the EU development agenda.

3. Child rights and child protection should be positioned higher on the EU's development agenda because tackling child poverty, child vulnerability and abuse has an enormous positive impact on the overall prosperity of societies (as detailed at question 3.1). The EU and the EU Member States should invest in children, encourage and support national policies in partner countries that address children vulnerabilities.

4. Given the growing number of actors involved in development, the EU should strategically invest in civil society networks. (1) CSO networks are crucial in introducing new reforms and innovations, networking and a multi-stakeholder approach is essential. Uniting CSOs working at the grass-roots level and inspired by their constant interaction with the most vulnerable children, CSO networks acquire an undeniable expertise and therefore they are able to recommend evidence-based policy solutions like no other group. A network has more legitimacy and a better coagulated voice in the society than one CSO on its own. (2) Networks can provide the right social environment to foster the scale of innovation. Networks can also provide the right environment to encourage innovation in the first place; innovators and innovation promoters often underestimate the extensive decision-making process involved in making an innovation decision.

## (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?

The EU should better coordinate all its internal and external policies and align EU actors' agendas without compromising social priorities over economic concerns. The economic crisis that has hit Europe and the world, together with the wide-spread poverty, continues to affect the lives of so many people - this proves that withdrawing investments in children and their families leads to the storing up of further severe problems. For such reasons, the EU should continue to invest in children, and should scale up its efforts in supporting partner states in the strengthening of their national social systems.

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

A better coordination of all EU internal and external policies is needed, with consistency in all policy priorities.

Child rights and child protection should be positioned higher on the EU's development agenda because tackling child poverty, child vulnerability and abuse has an enormous positive impact on the overall prosperity of societies (as detailed at question 3.1). The EU and the EU Member States should invest in children, encourage and support national policies in partner countries that address children vulnerabilities.

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?

The new European Neighbouring Policy should be better aligned with the Agenda 2030 development priorities and the EU development agenda. Accordingly, tackling child poverty and vulnerability should be higher on the cooperation priorities among the EU and the neighbouring partners. Similarly, the negotiations with the EU candidate countries should follow the requirements set by the Agenda 2030 targets.

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)?

Investing in children and supporting the strengthening of the child rights and protection systems in the partner countries has proved to be a great added value of the EU cooperation for development.

The protection of the rights of children is one of the most powerful success stories, thanks to the EU development cooperation and support. It is the case of Romania. Today, Romania, one of the youngest among the EU Member States, is a powerful example of how far and well the EU-partner country engagement can go when the cooperation road is paved with political will. The EU's tools of engagement used in Romania's case offer a successful roadmap to encourage societal advancement in the Eastern Neighbouring area because all countries in the region express the political will to care for their children. Part of the formula for successful child protection reform during Romania's process of accession included the introduction of solutions by the Romanian Government and the EU's willingness to fund them and celebrate them. The EU supported some of Romania's most significant actions towards reform, namely: (1) a central child protection agency charged with the reform process and reporting directly to the Prime Minister; (2) the decentralisation of child protection services; (3) a plan to close each residential institution and not just to deinstitutionalize individual children; (4) building human capacity to ensure capability to create and run alternative child protection services; and (5) encouraging a cultural mind shift away from state sanctioned care through the largest social campaigns at the time. The EU provided encouragement through three different avenues. First, the EU maintained a unified voice about Romania's child protection reform efforts. It coordinated its messaging and used the strengths of each main EU stakeholder institution to keep the issue current (in this case, the EC and EP). Second, central to EU engagement on Romania's reform efforts was the role of the EP Special Rapporteur to Romania. The Special Rapporteur created

and maintained a political space for child protection reform. The story of the Romanian orphans is an aspiration of what is possible when multiple stakeholders from all levels of policy engagement come together to change the lives of children. Such a vocal EU legacy should be promoted in a region where children remain the most vulnerable category of citizens, facing abuse, trafficking, discrimination and predominantly, poverty.

Another successful example where EU's support to advancing child rights and protection proves to have a great value-added in terms of development partnership is the case of the Republic of Moldova. EU's on-going support in the child protection system reform was essential in this country - particularly in the deinstitutionalisation process, when alternatives to locking up children in institutions have been found, implemented and mainstreamed. Even more, the inclusion of child protection high on the cooperation agenda among the EU and the government of Moldova proved that European development aid, together with appropriate governmental planning, can make a difference in the overall progress of the Moldavian society - provided that this progress begins with investing in children and is directed towards achieving a poverty-free inclusive society.

Building on these examples, it can be concluded that when it comes to tackling child poverty and vulnerability, previous success stories lead by the EU in the region prove that a coordinated political agenda between all EU institutions and policies can provide clear, consistent and influential messages to partner countries in the enlargement and neighbouring areas.

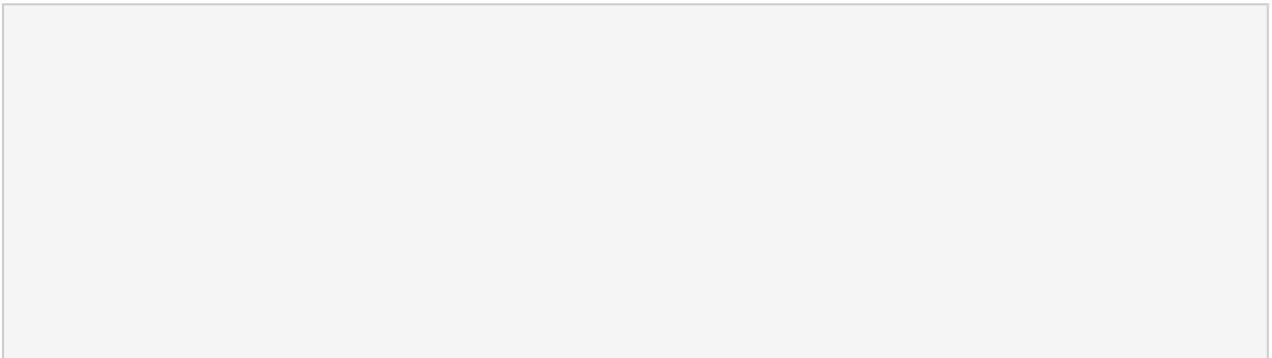
#### 4.6 How can the EU refine its development policy to better address inequalities – including gender inequality – in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Investing in strengthening the national child protection social systems is a way for the EU to better address inequalities in the partner countries. Supporting the equal access to services, access to education, and an environment where children are listened to, are not discriminated and are taken care for - these are priorities that the EU should consider in its support for development.

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?

In the context of widespread instability and tensions between the Eastern partner countries, there is a new urgency to use regional cooperation as a means towards progressive and innovative tools to address the challenges that no one nation can solve on its own. As a non-sensitive issue, regional cooperation on child protection opens the door to new relationships and trust between governments. Opportunities to pursue peace and greater security in the region should start with children. More specifically, ChildPact believes that if employed correctly, regional cooperation on child protection can manifestly change the lives of millions of the most vulnerable children across the region. Because the combination of knowledge, resources, capacity and ambition necessary to significantly help the most vulnerable children in our region are not found within one state, a cooperative approach could change the story for our most cherished and yet most vulnerable class of citizens.

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?

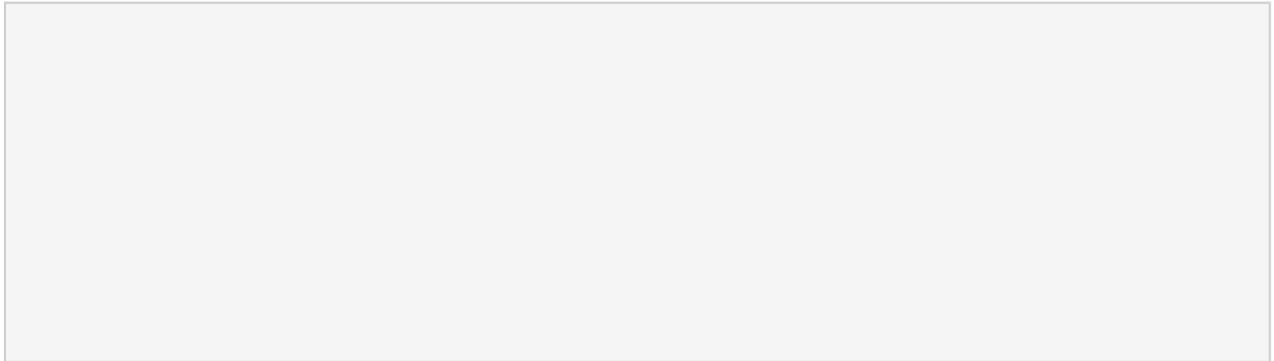
The EU should ensure full transparency and accountability in the management of all development financing. Furthermore, CSO input should be constantly pursued by EU actors, in a timely and well organised manner, enabling all civil society voices to be heard.

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?

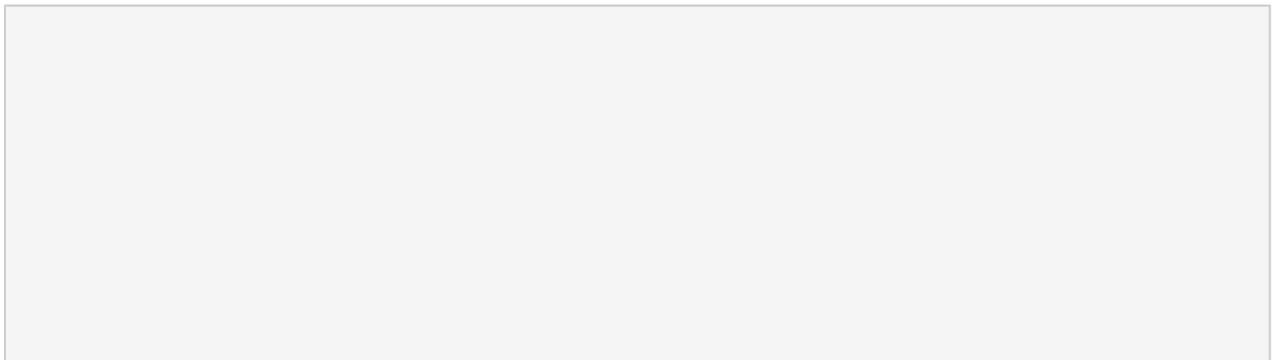
5.3 How can the EU better support partner countries in mobilising their own resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development?

The enlargement negotiations and the association agreement negotiations create a great momentum for the EU to advance its development agenda in the partner countries. Building on the previously achieved success stories (for instance, the cases of Romania and the Republic of Moldova in the reform of the child protection systems, see question 4.5), the EU should support (1) systemic reforms at national levels in the partner countries through financial and political incentives; (2) the sharing of good practices and lessons learned across the region from several national development actors, through regional cooperation and confidence building programs; (3) monitoring mechanisms and data collection efforts in the partner countries to correctly assess the evolution of development priorities and evaluate what works and what does not work.

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?



## (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?**

The EU should strengthen its partnership with civil society networks because these actors are capable of promoting and implementing the SDG targets, European values, and can hold governments to account through their work. Investing in such networks is essential because they are capable of providing more than direct services to their beneficiaries – they represent an advocacy machinery. Being always in touch with their constituent members – grass-root organisations – civil society networks have the capacity to mobilise a wide range of both local and national level actors, timely information, and experience-based knowledge for their work. In addition, because they unite several voices from civil society organisations in one vocal position, networks can legitimately stand against poor policies and efficiently advocate for sustainable change.

In order to be truly effective, networks need to be appropriately equipped in terms of funding, internal governance, advocacy and communication skills. Properly supported, civil society networks can be effective development actors.

In its efforts to support grass-root organisations, the EU should consider the essential role played by civil society networks which are able to channel the expertise, support and involvement of member grass-root organisations in a transparent and democratic way. This is due to the fact that civil society networks have strict internal governance rules and means of involving all its members in ways that are submitted to the will of the majority of CSOs. For all these reasons, EU's financial support to grass-root organisations should be directed from the local and national level networks towards the very local actors.

**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?

An effective way for the EU to support partner countries in the development and implementation of national plans aligned with the 2030 Agenda, is by seizing the best moments to exercise its leverage. For instance, the enlargement negotiations and the association agreement negotiations create a great momentum for the EU to advance its development agenda in the partner countries. Building on the previously achieved success stories (for instance, the cases of Romania and the Republic of Moldova in the reform of the child protection systems, see question 4.5), the EU can support the implementation of SDG target through: (1) systemic reforms at national levels in the partner countries through financial and political incentives; (2) the sharing of good practices and lessons learned across the region from several national development actors, through regional cooperation and confidence building programs; (3) monitoring mechanisms and data collection efforts in the partner countries to correctly assess the evolution of development priorities and evaluate what works and what does not work.

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

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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?

The EU should encourage monitoring mechanisms and data collection efforts in the EU Member States and in its partner countries in order to correctly assess the evolution of development priorities and evaluate what works and what does not work in reaching the 2030 targets.

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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