

## **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?

32018754890-28

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

Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (DSW)

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

International Development NGO

\* 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

Headquarters in Hannover, Germany, EU liaison office in Brussels

### (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?

Inequality and inequity in particular related to gender and youth are the key global trends that should be the focus of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite existing efforts, in some cases inequalities within and between countries have increased over the years, aggravating the depth of poverty, and economic and demographic challenges. Recent studies have shown that the

majority of poor people currently lives in middle-income countries (MICs) - the so-called new bottom billion (as per the Institute of Development Studies). As an example, Kenya had a total of 38.4% people living below the poverty line in 1992 and 43.4% in 2005, while in overall terms, the country graduated to be designated a lower-middle income country in 2014 (World Bank).

Gender relations and the situation of youth (age cohort of 14-25, as per United Nations, UN) are also fields where major inequalities persist. The recent gender inequality index of the UN shows the persistence of acute global gender gaps with relation to human development, civic empowerment, participation and economic status.

Youth unemployment is a major challenge that hampers overall development. Uganda, for example, has the highest youth unemployment in Africa, amounting to 83 % (cf. African Development Bank, 2013). There is often a focus on promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development by investing in access to labour markets, jobs and private sector engagement, which is welcome; however such opportunities become obsolete if the right skills are not in place, and the necessary health conditions are not created. Youth unemployment is intrinsically linked to their health, not least their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), namely in countries where sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, as well as early and unwanted pregnancies, leave many young people and especially young women and girls unable to finish their education or to work. Moreover, the majority of low-income earners in LMICs are unable to enter formal markets, and have to rely on unreliable and unsafe conditions in the informal labour market. If not given access to means for development and democratic participation, the youth cohort is at risk of becoming a major threat to political and social stability at home and in neighbouring countries.

Such uneven progress is not surprising, given that equality cannot be achieved if key enablers for human development and human capital are not put into place. Most importantly, equitable access to basic social services is a fundamental step to ensure healthy and empowered lives, thereby increasing access to employment and income for all.

Further aggravating the socio-economic status in LMICs are weak health systems and the lack of safe, efficient and accessible tools for tackling infectious diseases, another global challenge in itself. According to the Global Burden of Disease Study (WHO, 2013), poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases (PRNDs) cause 6.5 million deaths annually, and cost 353 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) each year in LMICs. The revised Consensus should take into account the European Commission's Scientific Panel for Health's (SPH) vision paper (May 2016) asking for a more proactive policy and international commitment by Europe to make a real difference at the global scale.

For these reasons, existing global trends should not be singled out but instead be perceived in a comprehensive way to deal with global challenges. Only an integrated agenda that looks at challenges across social, economic

and environmental dimensions, including access to education, healthcare and economic resources, can achieve sustainable development for all.

### 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?

EU policies should put the fight against inequality and vulnerability at the core of its programmes, and focus on creating enabling environment for locally owned sustainable development.

EU policies should, through a human-rights based approach, be more targeted to the needs and rights of vulnerable groups. As crucial pre-conditions of human development and overall socio-economic development, the empowerment of youth and gender equality should be recognised and enforced as cross cutting issues. Youth represents a large majority of populations in many LMICs, but policies need to consider the equality and non-discrimination of all – including the elderly and persons with disability. Therefore approaches to tackle multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are needed.

Investments aimed at realising and benefitting from the demographic dividend should be prioritised as a way of capitalising on the potential of young people and enabling the potential of women and girls. Investment in health, education, and, in particular, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including family planning (FP) and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), can lead to a voluntary reduction of fertility rates, and a decrease in mortality rates for infants, children and women. If enough sustainable working opportunities are created, a country can leverage the large proportion of youth, as a productive workforce. It can lead its youth, especially young women, to being economically active, generating greater income and allowing for economic growth, while reducing the risk of social and political instability.

One way of harnessing the demographic dividend would be the integration of population issues and family planning into all development strategies and programmes. Such approach has been already recognised as important by the EU and partner countries, for example under the ACP-EU partnership and the Cotonou agreement, but was never realised.

Another aspect is the measurement: the new SDG targets go much beyond poverty reduction measured by GNI growth, which has proven by the MDGs to be an insufficient proxy. All EU programmes and policies should be based on measures of progress which better reflect people's well-being. The adoption of a complex set of indicators to be disaggregated by at a minimum sex and age, but also income, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location etc., will be fundamental to break down information into smaller subpopulations and assess the impact over inequalities. It is key to identify possible interlinkages that one indicator has over several targets, namely for demography matters.

To fully deliver on being people-centered, EU should encourage all stakeholders to voice their views and encourage partner countries to take these into account. Citizens are entitled to demand accountability from their state with respect to obligations to promote and protect their rights, including access to basic social services and to a standard of living adequate for individual well-being. The EU has to a limited extent supported this social accountability approach, but it needs to be scaled up, including increased support to CSOs. Direct funding to the grassroots level should also be reinforced.

The EU should also give much more emphasis to means of implementation. Cooperation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation would build a much needed enabler for development. This is the particular case for health: the Ebola crisis has shown the need to be constantly vigilant and proactively invest in the development of improved, quality, accessible, effective and affordable health care, preventive measure (incl. vaccines), treatments and diagnostics to save lives and support healthy communities. Given the limited commercial incentive to develop products addressing neglected infectious diseases, the EU has a critical role to play in investing in these areas, and building capacity in LMICs (such as for research and innovation, production and storage, regulatory mechanisms even among regions, etc). Policy coherence is key and should be clearly defined in the revised Consensus. A recent assessment of the evaluation report on DEVCO support for R&I in partner countries concluded that there is a clear lack of consistency and overall strategy. The evaluation also recommends that the EC should consolidate the coordination between DG DEVCO and DG RTD, including an explicit division of labour.

Finally, the implementation of the new Agenda needs to identify and promote holistic solutions. There are already several integrated solutions that have proven valuable in tackling inter-linked development challenges at the community level. Population, Health and Environment (PHE) programmes are a successful example (please refer to question 4.1). Such cost-effective and high impact approaches should be prioritised by the EU, as opposed to tackling challenges through narrow disconnected approaches

#### (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?

A siloed approach with limited links between different objectives will not lead to progress on the comprehensive 2030 Agenda. While sectors that contribute to different development areas should be prioritised, gender equality, youth empowerment and inclusive approaches should be cross-cutting in the implementation of all these different agendas.

As governments' attention at regional and national level turns to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, there is a need to identify, promote and learn from integrated approaches that have already proven valuable in tackling inter-linked development challenges. Population, Health and Environment programmes are one such case. By empowering communities to manage natural resources in a sustainable way that benefits their livelihoods, people are encouraged to move away from behaviours that threaten their health and environment. This approach is focussed on adopting community-based solutions that include everyone especially women and girls. Therefore it does not only bring benefits for health outcomes and environmental conservation, but also helps advancing gender equality. Delivering in so many different fronts contributes also to the recently approved Sendai agenda.

There is a need to develop integrated funding streams allowing for such projects, since accessing funding for integrated projects (despite their proven success) remains a challenge.

Adopting an approach that truly engages citizens including young people, such as social accountability, is fundamental, as this allows better understanding of linked challenges and needs and of potential spill-over effects between programmes. Citizens themselves are the best placed actors to provide such overview and ensure that links are translated into operational programmes that benefit all. In particular, with today's largest generation of young people in history, young people will implement, monitor and experience the impact of the SDGs and need to be included as main stakeholders in the SDGs. This could also be discussed through the convening of a consortium of implementers and other experts to review, identify challenges, and follow up the implementation of the different agendas on an annual basis.

#### 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 first step to ensure this balance is to clarify some of the concepts that pertain to these dimensions. As an example, human development is often

narrowed down to economic progress. Adopting such correlation might lead to an erosion of the social dimension. As the EU Consensus states, 'combating poverty will only be successful if equal importance is given to investing in people'. EU institutions did undertake an internal exercise to better define human development; this however was never completed and publically communicated, even if the Agenda for Change specifies benchmarks for this. When reporting on these benchmarks, it is thus not clear what is included; not doing so has led to investing in of aspects that are not traditionally considered human development as if they were, e.g. such as access to trade under the DCI GPGC programme.

The adoption of the SDGs offers a good opportunity to further discuss what exactly the EU understands by human development, identify key pre-conditions, and ensure that the social dimension is not neglected. It will be fundamental to understand how to serve human development in a comprehensive way that does not dilute key issues already recognised in the Consensus and in human rights treaties, such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Components of SRHR relate to, inter alia, the highest attainable standard of health, the right to life, the right to bodily integrity, the right to education, the right to privacy, the right to non-discrimination.

As recognised by the UN Human Rights Council, young people 'face significant discrimination and barriers in accessing the information, services and goods needed to protect their sexual and reproductive health'. This leads to poor health outcomes and undermines human development. SRHR are intrinsically linked to gender equality, and women's and girls' rights and non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. When girls and women are able to delay pregnancy and decide themselves if, whom and when to marry, they have a greater chance for higher education and to be integrated in the labour market, lowering household poverty levels and contributing to economic development. SRHR are also about ending sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices such as early and forced marriage and female genital cutting/mutilations. Additionally, SRHR are linked to nutrition, due to the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months after birth and ensuring that mothers are healthy and well nourished, leading to lower risk for the new-borns of low weight at birth. Economic empowerment, vocational training and access to market can only achieve results if women and youth are healthy and able to work. Securing SRHR could contribute not just to Goal 3, Health and 5, Gender equality but as an enabling factor to the broader agenda.

In addition to mainstreaming gender equality and youth empowerment, integrating SRHR in sectors for EU cooperation should be done beyond health, as a way of ensuring balance amongst the different dimensions of sustainable development. It should be linked with education, gender equality, food security, livelihoods, environmental conservation, water and sanitation and nutrition aspects, for instance. As already recognised by the Cotonou agreement, though never put into place, population matters and FP should be integrated in all development strategies. WHO just recently launched a manual that aims at exploring how to integrate health in all policies through 'innovative solutions, and structures that build channels for dialogue and

decision-making across traditional government policy silos' (WHO, Health in All Policies (HiAP) Training Manual, 2015). While operationalising such interlinkages, the EU should develop an EU strategy for Global Health that would support many other dimensions of sustainable development, as well as fully ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD). This strategy would encompass all aspects to Global Health including a Human rights approach with emphasis on SRHR, health system strengthening, the role of key actors such as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in supporting the demand and awareness raising, as well as the need for research and innovation to deliver new and improved health solutions. More information about this can be found in question 5.5. This would also be in line with EU's new Global Strategy, which places focus on an overall approach to global development and global challenges.

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

The revised EU's development policy framework should put youth, with particular focus on girls and young women, at its heart. Today's world has the largest generation of young people in history; over 3.5 billion people are under 30. It is of paramount importance to recognise the potential and power of young people as partners and leaders in development and as key stakeholders in the SDGs. It is today's young people who will implement, monitor and experience the impact of the SDGs; it should also be them leading the process. Only if the world invests in this and future generations can we empower them to fulfil their potential and contribute to creating a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable future. The revised Consensus must recognise and address their importance.

Considering that many commitments are currently framing the international landscape, from the SDGs, to Sendai, Paris and Valletta, it is fundamental to invest in approaches that bring spill-over effects. The importance of programmes such as Population, Health and Environment has been already addressed in question 4.1. Furthermore, objectives of integrating population issues in development strategies, already endorsed for instance in the Cotonou agreement, should be re-committed and taken up.

Gender equality, in addition to youth empowerment, should be taken as a core value, a principle, a means and an end. While the EU Consensus covers some of these aspects by compelling gender mainstreaming, this has been far from being properly implemented or achieved. The revision of the Consensus should draw on lessons learned and include corrective measures for fulfilling these objectives. The Gender Action Plan II can serve as a guidance tool for mainstreaming and targeted internal and external activities in support of gender equality.

The understanding of pre-conditions to sustainable development should also be updated. While the Consensus recognises the importance of access to SRHR, it

does so in the context of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Beijing agendas. These milestones, albeit of central importance, are more than 20 years old and carry certain limitations. Two decades have brought the recognition that in a truly human rights based policy, inter alia, harmful practices have to be addressed, the importance of access to safe and legal abortions and emergency contraception needs to be recognised, as well as the existence of interlinkages of discrimination on different grounds and the acknowledgement of the key role played by adolescents' health for the well-being of communities and societies. Many of these aspects have been integrated in the review conferences of both ICPD and Beijing and even reflected in some of the new SDG targets, esp. 3.7 and 5.6. The revised Consensus should keep the objective of universal SRHR but without any restriction; or, at a minimum, with reference to ICPD and Beijing 'and the outcomes of their review conferences'.

The new framework should also prioritise citizens' voices as a key principle for cooperation with partner countries through social accountability. Citizens are entitled to State promotion and protection of their right of access to basic social services like health. CSOs and governments both play a key role in realising this right. When they promote collaborative and inclusive civic processes, they enhance public participation, ensure that policies are pro-poor, and ultimately improve governance and accountability.

Finally, the revised Consensus must also prioritise the means of implementation. Investments in areas such as research and innovation and capacity-building need to be upgraded; the Consensus did include the importance of development-related research, yet only in the context of infrastructure, communications and transport. The importance of these enablers must be applied to all sectors, mainly health and education in basic social services; should the revised Consensus fail to do so, it will fall short in its contribution to human wellbeing and sustainable development.

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

Human development should be one of the areas subject to bigger consistency between development and other EU external policies. According to UNDP, human development is both about improving people's abilities and enabling environment for these to be grounded. This is linked with societal resilience, security and global governance, some of the priorities of the current EU Global Strategy.

Human development is a field that has not received as much importance as it should. For instance, often concerns about demographic change fail to address human development and focus on this problematic from a migration-security nexus; e.g. rarely there is an integrated vision of how basic social sectors impact demography and population dynamics such as urbanisation, migration, as well as trade, economic development and research and innovation.

We welcome the reference in the EU Global Strategy to a focus on youth, in addition to a joined-up approach to humanitarian, development, health and research policies, among others, in line with the SDGs. The reference to effective prevention, detection and responses to global pandemics is also longed-for; however, this needs to be done through a model that is people and planet centred and based on a human rights approach. It will be key to balance the needs of addressing crisis through a 'political economy of peace' and the critical importance of fulfilling human development

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 has proven added-value in the established dialogue with partner countries. This has been the case of the EU's role as a promoter of human rights, crucial both in bilateral cooperation and international fora. Although political dialogue under some bi-regional frameworks, such as the ACP-EU partnership, has been subject to some criticism, it has been nonetheless instrumental in unlocking issues that can be controversial at national level. For example, it is acknowledged that space for civil society is shrinking in some partner countries, where organised movements do not benefit from any freedoms. The EU can be a vocal actor in mitigating such constraints and in enabling some flexibility. Dialogue has been extended beyond the official interlocutors of partner countries – the EU Delegations play a key role in engaging with local civil society, including through structured dialogues with CSOs. This type of dialogue is unfortunately still not a common practice from most donors and/or partners.

The EU has traditionally engaged in a mix of different aid modalities for translating its policies into concrete action. This has, however, not been the case in the recent set of EU programmes developed since the beginning of the new multiannual financial framework. While thematic programmes used to be allocated through different channels – be it indirect management of multilaterals, grants to civil society or even direct support to governments – , this has not been the case, for example, for health funds, which have recently been allocated only to multilaterals and inaccessible to broader civil society. This hampers access to the most marginalised, with civil society often providing best access to those most in need. The EU should reverse this trend and ensure that an efficient mix of aid modalities is in place to ensure diversity of channels and further inclusiveness.

The EU has an important role in ensuring donor coordination in partner countries, e.g. through its joint programming approach – a process that can reduce transaction costs for partner countries, ensure more targeted and high-impact interventions through pooled funds, as well as learning and sharing between development partners. The ongoing EC evaluation of joint programming should be used to better understand how joint programming can be further improved and how civil society participation in donor coordination can be ensured.

Finally, the EU has, through its size alone, an important role in addressing issues that may be too sensitive, or too resource-consuming, for a smaller donor to address. This concerns the promotion in political dialogue and programmes the respect of rights for instance sexual and reproductive rights in some contexts issues are extremely sensitive.

The EU has the means to be a champion of integrated solutions to challenges identified in different Agendas (eg 2040 and Paris), while also ensuring that such solutions are based in a participatory, inclusive and community-based approach. In addition the EU, given its long funding and policy periods, should be less likely to change priorities in short or middle term; this is a great advantage as far as investment in research and innovation is concerned. Therefore it places the EU as a prominent position to invest in research areas that might be neglected with limited market incentives or short term return such as research and innovation on Global Health.

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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?



The revised Consensus should place the fight against inequalities at its heart (question 3.1 and 3.2). The aim should no longer be just to eradicate poverty in absolute terms, but to ensure improved conditions for all, thus promoting sustainable development through a human rights based approach.

Gender equality is a human right and a pre-condition for sustainable development. It is therefore both a means and an end in itself. This should not just be acknowledged but also put into practice. Gender equality is one of the founding values of the EU, as reflected in the Treaty of Lisbon. Translation of these commitments into reality has however been lacking; gender mainstreaming has been an EU key strategy, but in development policy it has often failed: many policy areas remain programmed in a non-gender sensitive way, funding for gender issues is not prioritised. Because gender inequalities are still embedded in today's societies, contextual and baseline studies should take place to better plan the suggested action, in addition to gender-sensitive budgeting. Unfortunately, not all programmes, especially in development, fulfil these characteristics. More targeted actions should also be programmed across all sectors. Although there has always been some earmarked funds for gender, they have clearly been insufficient and not taking place across all sectors. The recently published 'EU Results report' (looking into projects from 2013–2014) shows that only an underwhelming 31.3% of projects promoted gender equality, instead of the committed 75%. Limited human resources and staff capacity has further contributed to weak implementation.

Gender equality should also be embedded in all political dialogue between EU and partners; but also here staff capacity and expertise remains a challenge.

Similarly to the commitment made by the EU on gender with the renewed Gender Action Plan II, the EU should endorse a dedicated youth policy. Young people are well placed to voice collective demands in relation to inequality in, for example, access to education, health, livelihoods etc. It is fundamental to create a culture that is youth-sensitive and that addresses respective needs according to the context. By empowering youth as the new leaders, the EU would be contributing to fulfilling their potential and contributing to a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable future.

Other strategies that could contribute to equality and equity would be the mainstreaming of population issues and family planning in all development programmes, as a way of harnessing the demographic dividend and enable equal opportunities for all.

Finally, adequate monitoring systems must be established. The SDGs should be measured through indicators disaggregated by sex and age, but also income, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location, and other relevant categories. This data is needed to better assess the impact of policies and programmes in communities and sub-populations in line with respective needs. As information on the age group 10–14 is both scarce and critical to development planning, better collection of data in relation to this cohort would be needed. This level of granularity would facilitate learning, ensuring that targeted action are in line with real needs.

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#### 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?

More important than tackling transitional security challenges, EU development policy should focus on the root causes of these challenges. Today's world has the largest generation of young people in history. Youth unemployment, lack of democratic participation and a feeling of frustration with established structures among youth are widely considered a risk to social cohesion, and thus need to be addressed in order to maintain and build peaceful societies. Cooperation should take place in key sectors that enable countries' development and support economic and public participation of the younger generation.

It is essential to recognise the potential of young people, and the need to empower this cohort as partners in development and as leaders of stability. Failing to do so exacerbates the exclusion of young people from labour markets, and as a result aggravating levels of poverty. In order to avoid instability, focus should be on fostering basic social services, such as health and education, and economic opportunities for young people. DSW's projects bring strong evidence of how investing in youth leads to the empowerment of healthy communities; after the creation of a network of hundreds of youth clubs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, more than 20,000 peer educators have been trained and have passed on their knowledge to more than 15 million young people in the last two decades. This has contributed to increased cohesion and ownership of communities, which ultimately improves governance and accountability. Former peer educators trained by DSW have in many cases taken on leading roles in their society as adults, e.g. by establishing local community-based organisations or starting successful businesses serving as role models for others.

Having gender equality at the centre of the policy also contributes to peace, in line with, but not confined to, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. This aims at reinforcing women's participation as actors for peace and security, while aiming at combating gender-based and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

To contribute to resilience and addressing the root causes of conflict, youth, women and girls should be at the centre of the interventions.

#### 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?

By putting gender equality and women and youth empowerment at the centre of this revision, while ensuring human development is not neglected but instead confirmed as a priority.

Similarly in the context of fragility where empowerment and resilience of key groups such as youth and women are key, root causes of migration are linked to the lack of systemic approach to well-being, human development. This is very much interconnected with the need to focus on human development aspects and above all the needs of women and youth. As explained previously and in the answer to question 4.7, fostering basic social services, such as health and education, and offering economic opportunities for young people will address some of the root causes of the 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?

While a proactive move towards sustainability and support for delivering the SDGs will be crucial, it is nonetheless governments who are the primary duty bearers. ODA should therefore be used as a catalyst of domestic resource or even from other sources; while doing this, it still needs to be used in accordance with existing international commitments and principles, such as, inter alia, the Monterrey Consensus, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, etc – and, in line with these, commitments to gender equality including the ICPD and the Beijing Declaration and respective platforms for action. EU support could then leverage resource for investment from other parties if they concur to achieve commitments by matching funds to meet the Abuja Declaration, which aims at allocating at least 15 % of the annual budget of African Union countries to the health sector or guarantee risks for procurement for FP commodities in line with national FP plan to reach universal access to SRH for instance. In this context partnership with local private sector should be prioritised over other international corporations to encourage strengthening of local capacities.

This should be considered when diversifying sources of financing and adopting modalities such as blending and public private partnerships (PPPs). There is a need to find the right balance between both sources. Good, long term, sustainable development results contributing to the overall aim of poverty reduction and socio-economic development should be the key objectives and the use of blending and PPPs must be based on this premise, in addition to human rights principles and equity outcome-oriented results. Transparency, inclusiveness and sustainable development criteria must be seen as more important than simple cost-effectiveness or potential leverage effects.

If private sector is indeed engaged, the EU has a role to play in ensuring these stakeholders implement the UN guiding principles on business and human rights and are committed to protecting, promoting and respecting all human rights. Moreover, priority of EU development policy should be on micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs).

Transversal to the different types of tools or modalities that the EU uses is the need of a multi-stakeholder approach, including civil society, which supports the implementation of programmes. Several mechanisms can be put in place to support participatory and inclusive processes, and ensure transparency of all engaged parts (for more info on this, please refer to chapter 7).

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?

EU ODA has and will always have a key role in ensuring sustainable development, as confirmed in the 2030 Agenda, is achieved. ODA should continue to be pursued in line with recently in Addis Ababa renewed commitments of 0.7% GNI, but a more ambitious timeframe should however be pursued: this long made commitment should not be further postponed to 2030, but rather be reached at the latest by 2020. Moreover, EU ODA should also fulfil the UN target of 0.15–0.20% of GNI as ODA to Least Developed Countries, as re-committed at the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

ODA should continue supporting sectors that otherwise have the risk of being neglected and that reach out to communities otherwise underserved, through a mix of funding modalities. As an example, investing in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights is a pre-condition for healthy and educated future generations. However, recent data has shown that access to family planning and other sexual and reproductive health services and information are mainly funded from domestic resources, the majority of which are out of pocket expenditures (OOP). Such over reliance in OOP prevents the most vulnerable from accessing services, as they typically lack the savings to pay up-front. This exacerbates existing inequalities, both at the social, economic and health levels. The EU and partner countries should support health systems strengthening and universal health coverage, so that universal access to basic services can be guaranteed for all.

In addition, ODA should be applied as a catalyst of domestic resources and an incentive to protect and promote 'global public goods'. Governments must encourage a notion of economic 'growth' or rather development that is sustainable and inclusive, benefitting all members of society, including the underserved and excluded. ODA support to economic empowerment and livelihoods programmes creating and enabling environment for domestic public and private sector will mid- to long-term reduce reliance on ODA as domestic resources increase. Addressing inequality and social exclusion, in particular among women, children and youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities remains essential.

Specific activities that should be funded with ODA include support to innovation, capacity-building, improvements in the tax system and public financial management with fair distribution of resources for social protection and the removal of obstacles to service delivery, while addressing barriers to participation in basic social sectors, such as education or health. This should focus on building resilience of the poorest segments of populations which are especially dependent on ODA and where the OOP expenditures present a substantial risk of impoverishment. Particular attention should be given to those sectors and/or programmes that are pre-conditions for sustainable development, such as human development. For

example, investment in research and development (R&D) for global health is a key driver of global public goods and should be considered a catalytic area of investment. As the recent evaluation report of DEVCO support to R&D in partner countries has shown, the most explicit link in the health sector with sustainable development is with R&D on infectious diseases.

ODA must always be used in accordance with existing international commitments and principles, such as, inter alia, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, the Paris Principles on aid effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. And, in line with these, the EU should honour commitments related to gender equality included in the majority of these agendas.

The importance of a multi-stakeholder approach that can promote citizens' voice is yet again encouraged in order to guarantee funding sources are in line with existing needs in countries. Bringing civil society, public and government authorities, research and private sector together, can be an effective way of capitalising on different areas of expertise and networks and ensuring adequate monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

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

The EU has a key role in ensuring domestic public finance is put into place and contributes to poverty eradication and sustainable development. It can do so through a two-pronged approach.

On the one hand, through its political dialogue, the EU can call for policies that support partner countries in achieving sustainable development. For example, in line with EU's objectives on health, EU can encourage setting policies that are conducive to Universal Health Coverage and avoid OOP that lead to acute impoverishment for most vulnerable and marginalised people in LMICs.

On the other hand, the EU can use ODA as a catalyser of domestic resource mobilisation that is people-centred and sustainable. This can be done through different ways:

- The EU can support partner countries in institutionalising gender and youth-responsive budgeting: through, for example, budget support and support to public financial management, the EU can encourage countries to adopt non-discriminatory and pro-poor financial policies and budgets at all levels, and support and institutionalise a gender-sensitive approach to public financial management, including gender and youth-responsive budgeting. The EU should also back all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and youth empowerment to be fully costed and adequately resourced and monitored to ensure their effective implementation, namely in the context of the new national development plans.

- Support the adoption and implementation of progressive tax systems: prioritise pro-poor taxation and align tax policies with human rights and gender equality obligations at national level. Domestic tax base can only be increased if formal markets are made accessible to those currently active – more often by necessity than by choice – in the informal market. This may require labour market and tax regulation changes, but it also requires civic education at community level, to ensure citizens have the capacity and skills to engage in labour, but also an understanding of their rights and what they should expect from their government in return for paying taxes – i.e. a change of perception from considering taxes as feeding corrupt systems to considering them as necessary for access to health, education, and other services.

- EU ODA should also support the fulfilment and scaling up of regional commitments such as the Abuja Declaration, which aims at allocating at least 15 % of the annual budget of African Union countries to the health sector. This could be done through matching schemes or risk guarantees, procurement guarantees, etc.

In addition to the mobilisation of domestic resources, the EU can also support partner countries in achieving global public goods agenda through supporting respective means of implementation. For example, in line with the EC Communication 'A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015', health is a key enabler for sustainable development and other global public goods. The EU has a role to play in promoting the development of technology, innovation and capacity building for this sector in partner countries, as a way not just to contributing to human development, but also as drivers of economic growth and employment creation. This also means supporting strengthening the regulatory system, building the innovative legal environment, creating opportunities to build scientific and regulatory capacities.

This is, for example, very relevant in the field of neglected infectious diseases, as the recent Zika and Ebola outbreaks have shown, due to limited commercial incentive to develop products addressing these diseases. Encouraging solutions in country, including local authorisation, production and storage of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics that result in people's access to new, better and improved products, can unlock impoverishment from health expenditure.



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

In the current context of global poverty, the revised EU development framework needs to target both poor people and poor countries. As mentioned in question 3.1, despite existing efforts, inequalities have in some cases even been exacerbated over the years.

The role of MICs in implementing the 2030 Agenda – and, inter alia, the Paris Agreement – is undeniable but these countries should not be perceived as homogeneous.

While the EU might decide to establish specific partnerships with these groups, and reduce the level of targeted ODA, it is important that it does not fully withdraw but instead takes into consideration existing inequalities in country. This might be reflected in a shift of aid modalities: while less budget support might be given, the EU can still confirm space for civil society, namely in those countries where vulnerabilities remain high (and even if GNI has grown). This would allow opening up diversity of actors, sectors and programmes, while at the same time honouring EU's commitments to sustainable development. It is also important to consider that while graduated to MICs, societies and institutions may not be democratically mature or stable enough to handle disruptive shocks caused e.g. by climate disasters, conflict or outbreaks of infectious diseases. Support to inclusive and multi-stakeholder participation in public and political processes remain needed in many MICs.

In addition, there are some collaborative approaches that should be taken into consideration with MICs, namely by contributing to the global public goods agenda. These would include capacity-building and collaboration for good practices and information exchange between and within regions. The EU can also encourage some of these MICs to partner in existing initiatives that contribute to the global agenda; as an example, the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health stated that the international community should double its spending in R&D for global health, 'from US \$3 billion to \$6 billion annually by 2020, with half of this additional amount coming from middle-income countries'

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 commitment to PCD is another example that, despite not being new, has been far from being achieved.

In order to step up efforts in this front, the EU should ensure that perspectives from local communities in partner countries are also reflected in impact assessments, for example, under the recently adopted Better Regulation Package. Respective Regulatory Scrutiny Board should have in-house knowledge on human rights and gender equality, in addition to consultation mechanisms and measures for civil society engagement, through which the above-mentioned messages can be conveyed. By investing in approaches such as social accountability, i.e. civic engagement of communities in local and national governance, the EU will be setting the ground to allow citizens to voice their concerns. There are mechanisms that can be put into place in order to ensure local communities' messages reach national governments partnering with EU and identify when existing policies are against the protection and promotion of human rights. At a higher level, participation in the formulation of new policies and strategies should be open to the public, rather than based on invitations at discretion of policy makers.

PCD can however only be achieved if and when EU's different institutions work in an integrated and coherent way. Like all cross cutting issues, health including SRHR, is a prime example of how all EU institutions and services need to come together with complementary funding and supportive and coherent programmes. As an example, the recent DEVCO evaluation of Research & Development (R&D) support in partner countries. The latter identifies, for example, the 'lack of a clear overall strategy (beyond sector strategies) for DEVCO support to R&D' as the reason for the 'dispersed manner' and lack of consistent threads. Similarly on SRHR, it is key that all EU institutions work jointly to advance what is not only a health but also a Human rights, sustainable development, and gender issues as requested by the Council in May 2015 in its conclusions on Gender and Development (the Council 'invites all EU institutions to continue their work on these issues in line with the Policy Coherence for Development principles').

## (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?

Civil society, namely CSOs have a key role in promoting inclusive civic processes and ensuring that policies are pro-poor, ultimately improving governance and accountability. This double-edged role is even more important in countries that have been subject to decentralisation. E.g., the devolution process in Kenya, although welcome, brought challenges in allocation of resources and provision of services at local level (e.g. acute shortages in family planning commodities). In such processes, local and district level civil society must be given the tools, space and means to effectively participate in policy and budget formulation, implementation and evaluation.

Moreover, CSOs are often a significant or even the primary provider of basic social services, particularly in marginalised communities.

European engagement with CSOs at the partner country level through EUDs, is based on the EU CSO country roadmaps. While these are good tools, implementation has suffered from delays. To ensure effective and strategic partnerships with civil society, EUDs must be properly staffed. The new development framework should build upon and further improve existing dialogue with EUDs, MSs and public authorities. This would imply permanent and structured dialogue with CSOs. This could be done by simply allowing a common space to do so, as well as by investing in capacity-building for advocacy, policy work and monitoring of progress. Such capacity development should be supported by EUDs and development partners as well as CSO coordination in policy and advocacy processes.

EUDs have a role to play in supporting CSOs space and enabling environment in policy dialogues. To upgrade this political space, it will be important to allocate sufficient resources for CSOs through long-term and adapted funding. CSOs should be given a formal space close to existing institutions, namely those that are jointly owned between EU and partner countries (e.g. joint institutions under the EU-ACP partnership or the Joint Africa EU Strategy). They should be able to bring evidence and innovative suggestions at all levels of political dialogue, from plenary sessions to technical working groups (national and regional). If EUDs' awareness, sensitivity, capacity and expertise on key cross cutting issues (such as youth empowerment, gender equality, or R&I) increase, there could be even more fruitful cooperation with local partners.

The division between national CSOs and networks compared to local and grassroots organisations outside of capitals, who have struggled to participate in consultation processes even when these have taken place, should be taken into consideration. National networks and platforms, as well as international organisations, should be encouraged to support such smaller CSOs through coordinated advocacy, e.g. by sub-granting and building capacity of such organisations. However, current EU funding instruments do not sufficiently take into account the human, administrative and financial resources needed to sub-grant and effectively build capacity of smaller organisations; an increased administrative budget for sub-granting would be key for making projects more sustainable. CSO's right to initiative must prevail; while CSOs may be well placed to implement capacity development activities indirectly supporting the work of EUDs, their right to set and work towards their own objectives must be respected as key element of a vibrant civil society. As such, they must not be seen as contractors to implement parts of EU development strategies, but rather as partners who often, but not always, share the same agenda as the EU.

Additionally, CSOs should have a central role in the accountability mechanisms under the 2030 agenda to be developed at the local, national, regional and international levels. The EU should encourage establishing networks through which CSOs could bring evidence of progress, especially in regions that will have peer review mechanisms, and potentially feed into the EU's own results framework.

As for the private sector, mobilisation will be important to fill funding

gaps, improve service delivery and encourage innovation. Local private sector development should be particularly encouraged, e.g. by promoting income generating activities. But there is need for caution and ensuring respect for human rights principles and equity outcome-oriented results, among others (please refer to question 5.1 for more).

Many more actors should be part of these partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. Incl., but not limited to, organisations working with populations suffering from discrimination; academia; or product development partnerships, which are non-profit organisations that develop appropriate and affordable innovative tools for populations affected by poverty related and neglected diseases, as well as industry and philanthropic institutions; among others

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

Transparency, inclusiveness, human rights and sustainable development criteria should be the priority. As above mentioned, the private sector should be engaged in the debate of protection and promotion of human rights, in line with the UN guiding principles of business and human rights.

The private sector can support implementation of programmes and support service delivery. It can also leverage public financing, so that scarce public resources can go further.

But doing so in a way that does not harm human rights as well as social, economic and environmental conditions of individuals has proven challenging. For instance, private companies have been selling increasing amounts of basic social services and supplies to LMICs countries, such as those serving sexual and reproductive health, but this has not necessarily brought relief to out of pocket expenditures; existing research even shows the opposite effect (Arrow, Pakistan).

One good approach to mobilise the private sector for sustainable development and leverage its expertise and resources is to combine public financing and private market participation into so-called public-private partnerships (PPPs). While some initiatives have raised controversy, one model that has proven valuable are not-for-profit product-development partnerships for the health sector, which have been contributing to the research and development of new or improved, safe, effective and affordable products.

In order to promote effective private sector investment, the EU and partner countries should (i) ensure an ex-ante impact assessment, showing that benefits from PPP financing and potential private business service delivery outweigh extra costs and risks for the national system, in addition to the absence of any conflict of interest (this would be of particular relevance for commodities supplies) – this impact assessment should closely involve local communities and take into account the impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; (ii) implement mechanisms for full transparency of PPPs acting in partner countries, through public access to information about programmes and full stakeholder participation; and (iii) establish inter-regional PPPs conditional on compliance with development effectiveness, human rights principles and equity outcome-oriented results.

Importance should be also given to PPPs that simultaneously invest in capacity-building, including collaboration for good practice and information exchange between and within regions. Finally, PPPs need to be designed with sustainability in mind; i.e. must include knowledge transfer and establishment of locally owned and sustainable structures.

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

The first thing the EU can and should do is leading by example; the EU has been a progressive voice stressing the global need of protecting and promoting human rights, equality and equity. This should be kept at the top of its agenda but, more importantly, should be put into practice.

As the world's largest export and import market, the EU has a leading role for defining the trade agenda. Here, the EU can encourage that trade agreements and liberalisation policies do not undermine the well-being and livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities. In addition, the EU should pay attention to the gender dimension of trade agreements, ensuring that they support gender equality. In addition, the EU can also voice the need of ensuring an adequate presence of partner countries, namely LICs, in the global economic governance with a gender-balanced representation.

The EU can also leverage the position it has in Boards of different multilateral agencies and advocate for integrated approaches and effective M&E systems. For example, when it comes to health multilaterals that are based on vertical programmes, the EU can stress the need of having specific reporting of impact over human rights, health systems strengthening and innovation. The EU could also encourage the breakdown of reporting for different health components that have a spill-over effect, as for example reproductive, maternal, new-born child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services. This would enable understanding the quantity and quality of funds allocated to multilaterals, while being able to breakdown respective contribution to different SDG targets.

Finally, the EU can play an instrumental role in bridging lessons learned at the global, regional, national and local level. Several mechanisms have been set up after the adoption of the SDGs and the AAAA. For example, the First annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for the SDG took place as part of the recently established Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Being a sound contributor to STI, the EU could draw lessons from these Fora in order to inform its framework on this front, and vice-versa. Respective recommendations should also be incorporated in the EU's review of the SDGs implementation.

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

First of all, to lead by example, the EU needs to move beyond 'business as usual' and present an ambitious implementation plan of the 2030 Agenda, both at internal and external level. This should be done in an integrated and coherent approach across policy areas and levels of governance, including coordination with EU member states, while including participatory review mechanisms.

The EU can support awareness in partner countries of what national plans entail and how are they part of the 2030 Agenda, if and where needed. It can do so by supporting national campaigns through governments or by investing, directly or through capacity-building, in local/national CSOs in order to promote inclusive civic processes and meaningful public participation in policy and budget formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This would support the mapping of needs and gaps a priori of the planning and would be even more important in countries that have been subject to decentralisation processes (e.g. some East African countries). It could also include support (financial and/or technical) to technical working groups developing costed work plans in sectors covered by Agenda 2030.

Through its political dialogue, the EU should encourage partner countries to establish accountability mechanisms that bring transparency of processes by engaging multi-stakeholders, including CSOs. This would be a way of ensuring the voice of the most underserved and vulnerable communities are taken into account in any review and follow-up of these national strategies. This can also be done through the different mechanisms identified in question 6.1. Capacity-building can also be supported in partner countries, namely with regards to monitoring, data collection and evaluation schemes.

Finally, the EU also has the obligation to ensure that policy coherence for sustainable development is fully in place, by assessing if all its policies are in line with the national plans of partner countries.



## 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?

Firstly, coherence and complementarity should occur amongst EU instruments themselves in order to avoid leaving orphan sectors. There are several EU instruments and programmes that might support a certain sector, such as health, but it is not clear how these complement one another; this is actually a sector where instead there might be additionality, as some multilateral recipients receive the bulk of health funds from different funding sources. Ensuring complementarity of these instruments would further policy coherence for sustainable development.

Assessments need to be conducted at country level leveraging donor coordination mechanisms and joint programming to ensure that no key sector or part of the sector identified in the country strategy is left without support. It is important to include dialogue with CSOs and the communities themselves. Voicing the needs of the ultimate beneficiaries would be fundamental to ensure there is indeed a comprehensive division of labour between EU and Member States.

The EU and Member States could also engage in joint planning and programming of those fields that are not sectors per se but that contribute to development more broadly and tend, nonetheless, to be ignored. This could be the case, for example of some elements of sexual and reproductive health and rights. While comprehensive sexuality education is an effective way of preventing teenage pregnancies and reducing the recourse to abortion or the number of unsafe abortions, donor's support to the health and education sectors would regrettably not necessarily cover this, even if recognised as important in a partner country strategy. Better joint planning and programming for issues such as SRHR should be upgraded, and civil society participation in such processes should be strengthened.

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

In order to be effective and ensure that the next 15 years deliver in sustainable development and reduce inequalities, the reviewed EU development framework needs to ensure the following elements:

- Investments in human development should be mainstreamed. While we welcome the existence of specific benchmarks, namely 20% of funds to be allocated to human development, this has proven to be insufficient. We firstly need a clear definition of what is human development, so that basic social services that are inherent to people well-being do not get diluted. Plus, the EU needs to fulfil in this commitment; its recently published 'Results report' (referring to 2013-2014) shows that not even 16% of EU funding was allocated to this area. Secondly, we need to ensure that impact in human development is always taken into consideration, whatever sector is subject to investment (eg infrastructures). This can be done by setting clear indicators, results-oriented actions and supporting internal expertise in EU institutions to assess the level of impact in this important area. If this is not taken into consideration, the chances of healthy and productive lives and physical and mental well-being for all are undermined, especially for the youngest generations. In this line, gender equality and youth empowerment should be both mainstreamed and subject to concrete and targeted actions.
- Harnessing the demographic dividend would also support effectiveness of EU development cooperation. This could be done by integrating population issues and FP into all development strategies and programmes, as recognised under the ACP-EU partnership and the Cotonou agreement.
- In this line, the adoption of integrated initiatives that have the potential to be a cost-effective and high impact programming to achieving different agendas, such as Population, Health and Environment programmes, should be prioritised.
- Finally, in order to understand the impact of the EU development cooperation, learn from its lessons and enable review and revision, the EU needs to ensure citizens can be heard by investing in social accountability. There is a need to invest in civic education, so that communities understand their rights and can react accordingly close to their governance level. This bridging between communities and decision-makers can be promoted through CSOs. Strategic engagement, by EU or Member States, with civil society should continue to be guided by CSO roadmaps developed by EUDs, ensuring that political and financial support to civil society is appropriate.

## 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?

The impact assessment of the 10th EDF brought in disappointing results of joint programming between European institutions and Member States: by 2011, only 20% of the reviewed recipient countries had agreed on a division of labour and only 5% of countries had joint programming in place. The upcoming review of the joint programming exercise in 2016 will yet show how comprehensive this exercise has been. However, it was already possible to see the unsatisfactory consultation phase, as per the roadmap, which would be done mainly through interviews or small workshops of 'main stakeholders in the partner countries', instead of having broad and inclusive consultations in the partner countries. Joint programming should also occur in terms of engagement and support to civil society, with EUDs and EU MS jointly developing and implementing EU CSO country roadmaps.

The fact that the review processes in many cases are neither comprehensive, transparent nor based on multi-stakeholder participation, undermines involvement and ownership of beneficiaries. It should be compulsory that every review done, be it of funding instruments or EU/MS joint programming, includes a comprehensive consultation phase with all actors, including CSOs and groups of citizens that are aware of their rights. In addition, consultations should represent all sectors (even if not a priority sector in the country) in order to understand the full impact of funding – including unintentional impact (positive and negative). Only then is it possible to ensure greater strategic focus of EU cooperation that responds to previous learning, fulfils existing needs, promotes development effectiveness and avoids duplication of efforts or creating orphan sectors.

Some specific elements to ensure transparent and inclusive consultations at partner country level would be: ensuring timely and comprehensive sharing of information (with national reach and not only in the capitals through e.g. online consultations); investing in capacity development of local CSOs for more and constructive – involvement and engagement; and improving feedback mechanisms after consultations, namely by identifying what was taken on board, what was not and why. This has been identified by CSOs as a key factor enabling constructive dialogue with EUDs for mutual benefit.

Such engagement should also be encouraged for the reviews and follow-up of the SDG implementation at the national, regional and global level.

## (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 establish its monitoring, evaluation and reporting in line with the new paradigm for accountability of the Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary General on the 2030 Agenda: meaning that all countries, including citizens themselves, should be accountable for contributing to the 2030 Agenda. In order to do so, public transparency is of paramount importance, in addition to participatory monitoring and open data. Once again, the role of social accountability in unlocking grassroots participation is undeniable, with CSOs playing an instrumental role in this.

In line with previous answers, the EU also has a role to play in supporting capacity-building of national statistical offices in partner countries, so that the data collected in a comprehensive and inclusive way can be adequately assessed and reported.

The EU can also encourage the set-up of peer monitoring, accountability and review mechanisms within its Member States, within EU institutions and with its counterparts in bi-regional frameworks. This would enable scrutinising SDG implementation on a regular basis, with representatives not only from the decision-making level but also from civil society, including CSOs and citizens, leading to the definition of yearly recommendations. The EU should also encourage the preparation of stakeholder reports and include these as contributions to the official national, regional and global follow-up and review processes.

Part of this process should also be the annual reports on the EU Results Framework for development policy; it is important to allow for open mechanism data and to consult civil society, especially at the level of output and outcome, in order to assess all the determinants that might impact (positively or negatively) the results of EU programmes.

In addition, EU should leverage global events for sharing evidence and analysis, such as the collaborative annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation (STI) for the SDGs. Given its key role as contributor for STI, this is a forum where the EU could learn from others and withdraw key recommendations for follow-up and review processes.

## 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?

In line with the new paradigm of accountability suggested by UN Secretary General, the EU and Member States need to set up participation mechanisms that are transparent, inclusive and open to all. Reporting mechanisms should be compulsory, take into account the outcome/impact of its bilateral relations and involved actors. In this context, civil society, including CSOs, should be given a space to engage in dialogue with governments of partner countries, EU Delegations and Member States. Reports from stakeholders, through themes, regions or goals, should also be considered and included in the compulsory national reports. All parties should be encouraged to participate in this process that, albeit being transparent, should also respect the right to privacy, given the sensitivity of some data or initiatives (for e.g. Human rights defenders, etc).

To further promote integrated approaches, the EU should encourage cross-sectoral partnerships between CSOs and other stakeholders that engage in different themes and levels that can nonetheless have spill-over effect in implementing the Agenda. Capacity building to civil society and other actors may be necessary to ensure constructive and informed participation in accountability and review mechanisms.

The contribution and interaction from these actors should also be incorporated in all reports the EU develops on a yearly basis, including the report on accountability, results, PCSD and human rights, among others.

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

The EU should readapt its bilateral cooperation in line with the needs identified by partner countries to readjust themselves their national strategy. At the same time, the EU must maintain programmes to achieve its commitments: this could lead to a readjustment of EU thematic programmes. The mid-term review of the EU multiannual financial framework allows for this flexibility in principle, as well as the following EU multi annual financial frameworks, which will also constitute good opportunities to realign to countries' priorities.

However some flexibility mechanisms should also be put in place to slightly adjust partner countries' needs on a more regular basis (eg annual or every two years).

