

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

## (2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

Age International

- 2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

- Government institution / Public administration
- University / Academic organisation
- Civil society (including Non-Governmental Organisation, specialised policy organisation, think tank)
- International organisation
- Private sector or private company
- Citizen/private individual
- Other

2.6 Please specify

\* 2.7 What is your place of residence (if you are answering as a private individual) or where are the headquarters of your organisation situated (if you are answering on behalf of an organisation)?

- In one of the 28 EU Member States
- Other

2.8 Please specify

(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?**

It is crucial that the EU recognises a range of cross-cutting global trends including the phenomenon of population ageing, in order to fulfil the overarching aim to 'leave no-one behind' in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. By 2050 there will be 2 billion people aged 60 and over compared to 928 million today, with the majority living in low and middle-income countries (UNDESA).

Global population ageing is a result of the social, economic, political and economic advances to which the EU has contributed, which in turn have led to reduced fertility and increased longevity. It is important to respond to and prepare for population ageing, which is happening at an unprecedented pace and is already having an impact on people at all stages of life, as a key component of the EU's development cooperation. Global ageing has been largely overlooked in development policy and programming, often leaving older people without support, protection and access to their rights.

One major challenge of population ageing is that older people are at increased risk of developing non-communicable diseases or chronic illnesses (NCDs); these include cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, respiratory diseases and mental health conditions including dementia. It is estimated that 71 per cent of people estimated to die of NCDs are aged 60 and over (WHO, Global Status Report on non-communicable diseases 2010). Nearly 80 per cent of NCD deaths occur in low and middle-income countries (WHO). Women live longer than men and they live more years in ill health. However, with the right support, it is possible for people of all ages to live fulfilling and productive lives.

In many cases older people continue to work well into later life out of necessity, often engaging in informal, insecure and undignified employment. Only 1 in 4 older people in low and middle-income countries has access to a pension (HelpAge Global AgeWatch Index 2015). As recognised by the World Health Organization, UN Women and others, the unpaid, informal care provided by older people, particularly older women, for spouses, grandchildren and others left behind by AIDS and migration, is invaluable and often underpins the productive economic activity of younger people. These contributions made by older people to their families, economies and communities must be taken into account when implementing the 2030 Agenda.

### 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?

In order to achieve sustainable development it is crucial that EU development cooperation, including the revised European Consensus on Development, harnesses the opportunities and meets the challenges that global population ageing presents. We urge the EU to take the lead in moving international development beyond 'business as usual' by taking people in later life fully into account in its efforts to achieve the aims of the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda makes specific reference to ageing and older people across a number of goals and targets, recognising that people at all stages of their lives must be included in the response to the challenges outlined in the framework.

The EU must now align its development policy with this global universal agenda, which has the potential to be truly transformational in its approach to older people and population ageing. However, the EU should also be mindful of its own existing commitments, and retain its leadership in the areas where its commitments are stronger than those of the SDGs. For example, although a commitment to gender equality is clear in both the 2030 Agenda and in EU legislation and policy, the EU's Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 went beyond SDG 5 in reinforcing the important language on 'women and girls of all ages' of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 also recognises the need to analyse and address the multiple discrimination that many girls and women are subjected to, including intersecting and cumulative discrimination. The new European Consensus must firmly reinforce this language and these objectives and ensure adequate investment in enabling the full implementation of this Gender Action Plan.

The 2030 Agenda recognises the need to pay more attention to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with SDG3 incorporating a target (3.4) specifically on tackling them. Accessing appropriate healthcare can be difficult for older people, as they regularly face discrimination and healthcare staff often lacks the experience and expertise to manage the multiple chronic conditions that are common in later life. However, the target reinforces the discriminatory language of 'premature mortality' which opens it up to the risk of excluding older people. The European Consensus on Development should reject this discriminatory language and ensure that people of all ages are included in all references to global health work, particularly NCDs which have the most impact on older women and men.

Universal, rights-based social protection is crucial for the economic empowerment and wellbeing of older women and men. Ensuring financial inclusion, affordable and appropriate healthcare and income security for women and men in later life also has wide-reaching benefits for whole households. The EC Communication 'A Decent Life For All' in February 2013 recognised pensions and health systems, both key ageing-related issues, as

areas where greater efforts will be required in developing countries. In 2012 the EU developed a policy framework on social protection in development, an issue that is integral to many of the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and its target 1.3. The EC Communication on Social Protection in Development Cooperation of 2012 supports universal, rights-based national social protection floors that address a range of life cycle risks as identified by ILO Recommendation 202. The EU should reiterate its support for this in the Consensus on Development and fully implement its existing commitments on social protection.

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

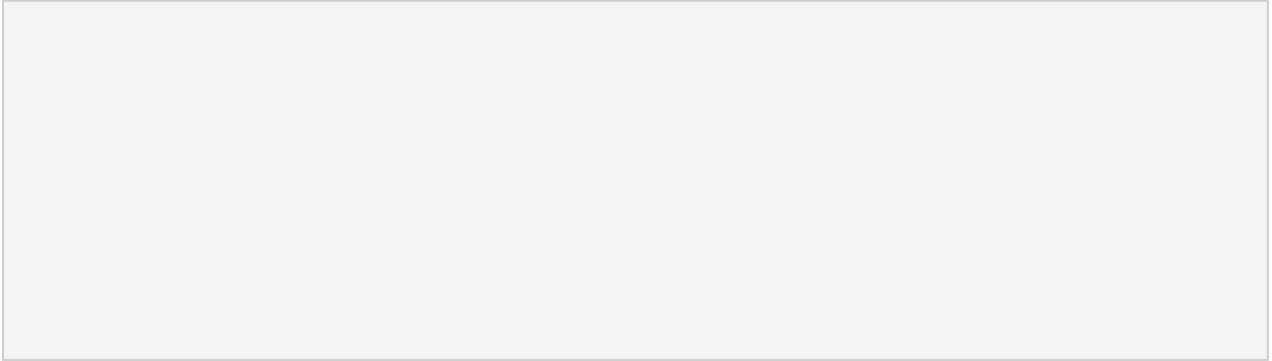
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Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require sustained EU efforts to promote a more just world, including a strong focus on the need to address gender equality and women's empowerment. Peace, inclusiveness, equality and good governance including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

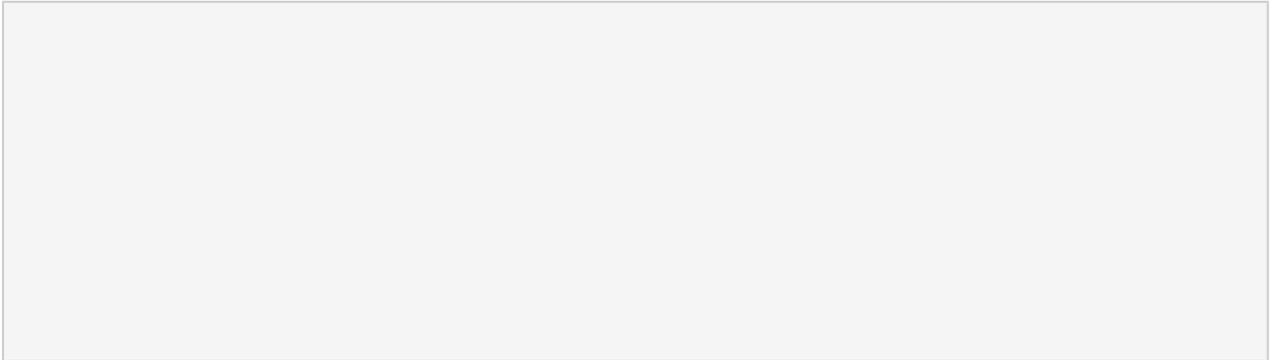
To achieve poverty eradication, EU development policy will need to take into account key demographic and environmental trends, including challenges related to climate change, and concentrate effort on least developed countries and fragile states. The EU will also need to strengthen our approach to fragility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

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

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



4.2 How should the EU strengthen the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy?



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

Sustainable development will only be possible if global population ageing issues are fully mainstreamed across EU development policies. The 2030 Agenda is a huge step forward from the MDGs which neglected to mention older people, and contains strong references to 'older people' and 'people of all ages' throughout the goals and targets, as well as indirect inclusion through the language 'for all people' and 'universal'. In existing EU development policies there are a number of scattered references to 'older people', 'age' or 'people of all ages', but this needs to be more consistent.

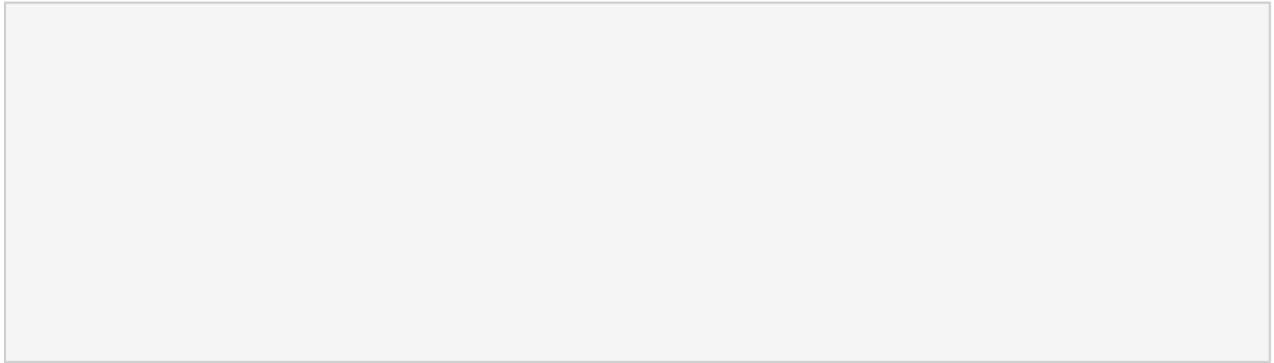
The new European Consensus on Development must reinforce the EU's previous recognition that demographic change, including global ageing, is a critical issue for development cooperation.

It must also reinforce the recognition of the impact of intersecting inequalities such as those related to age and gender, which was clearly referenced in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016–2020 and addressed by DG ECHO in a Staff Working Document, in its gender- and age-sensitive approach and in the Gender-Age Marker.

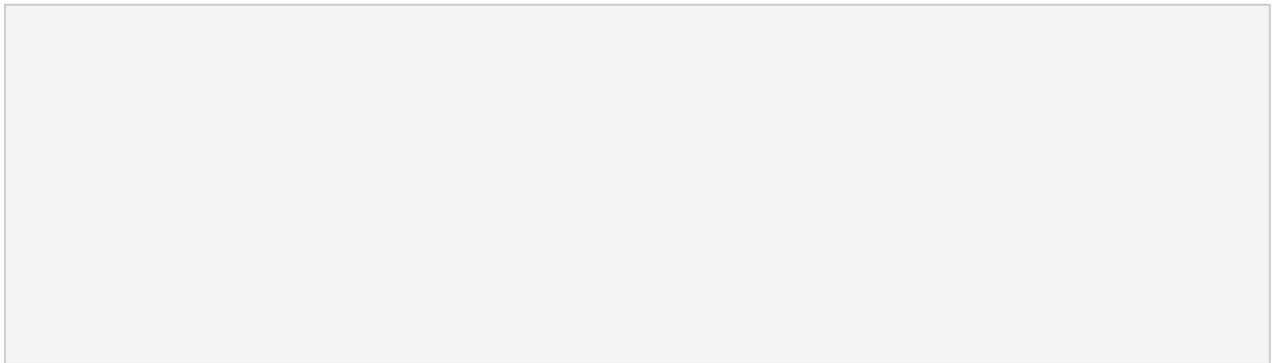
More and better data, fully disaggregated by age, sex, ability and other factors, is key to achieving commitments to the 2030 Agenda. The UK's Department for International Development has recognised this need and is working with global partners towards increasing the availability and quality of data, with an initial focus on age, gender, disability and location. The EU must join them in stepping up its efforts to invest in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data. Data must be collected for all age groups in five-year cohorts if people's complex and specific needs are to be understood. The European Consensus on Development should go beyond the 2030 Agenda in the areas where it currently neglects to back up targets on older people with an indicator that enables the necessary data disaggregation to measure it.

The EU, as the world's biggest donor of aid, is a respected development actor, and its actions will help set the standard for other stakeholders. It is crucial that the EU uses its influence to ensure that the realities of women and men of all ages and abilities, and particularly the most marginalised, are taken into account in development efforts.

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



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



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

Recognising the intersection of inequalities based on a range of characteristics, including gender, is crucial to tackling them effectively. As the 2030 Agenda recognises, gender equality can only be achieved if its barriers are explicitly recognised and tackled. The EU should ensure the language on intersectionality used in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016–2020 is reflected in its focus on gender equality in the Consensus on Development.

Gender-based inequalities accumulate and many women face high levels of poverty, exclusion and abuse in older age. Older men also experience specific types of inequality due to their age and gender. Globally, 15 per cent of older women and 11 per cent of older men live in poverty, compared to 10 per cent of women and nine per cent of men of working age (UNDESA 2011). In low and middle income countries, only one in four people over 65 receive a pension (HelpAge Global AgeWatch Index).

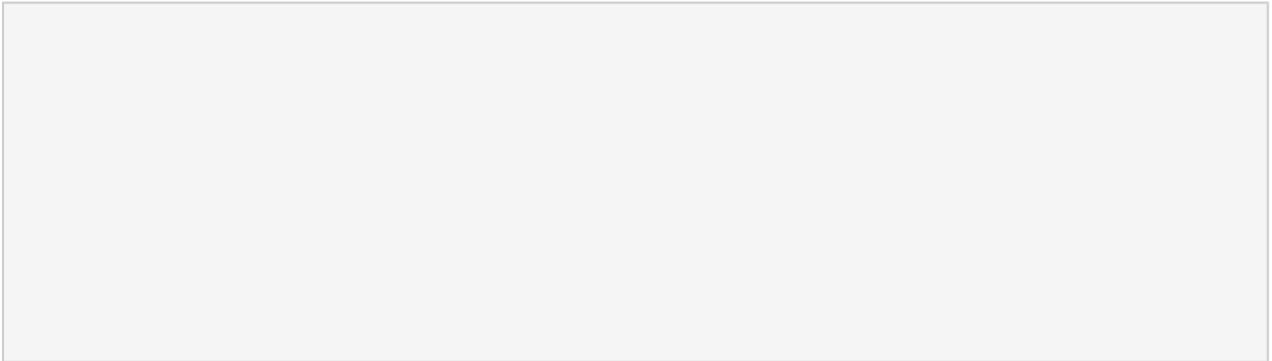
A European Parliament resolution in 2013 referred to the vulnerabilities of old age and the importance of social protection. The recognition of this must be reiterated and reinforced in the EU's development policy.

The 2030 Agenda and the EU Gender Action Plan 2016–2030 both recognise the need to underpin gender equality in the labour market with social protection and recognition of unpaid care. The migration of working age adults, the epidemic of HIV and AIDS, and the increase in non-communicable diseases and dementia have all contributed to older women taking on a greater share of unpaid care.

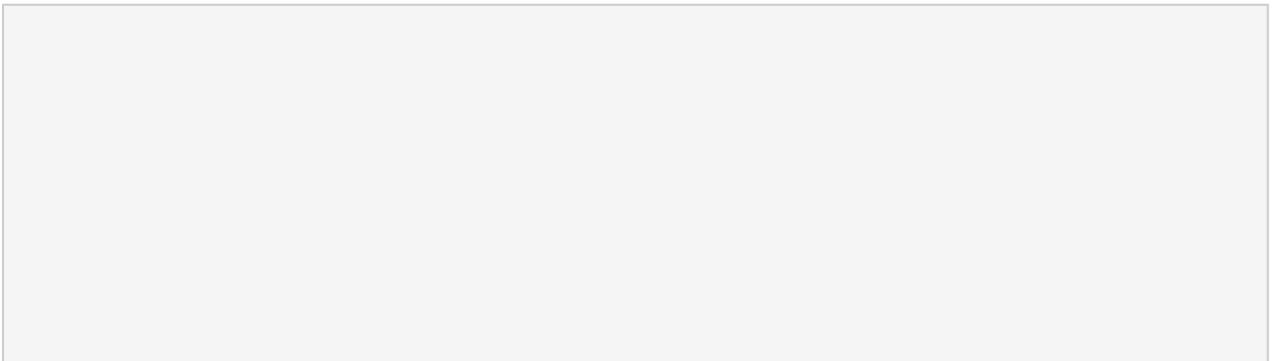
The EU's plans for implementing SDG 5 and the GAP objective 14 must include women aged 50 and over who make up nearly a quarter of the world's women. The situation of older women and men remains largely invisible due to a lack of internationally comparable data for people beyond the age of 49. Data fully disaggregated by age, gender and other characteristics identified in goal 17 must be made available and monitored if the EU and its partners are to fully understand and tackle the root causes and implications of inequality and to meet the 2030 Agenda's commitment to 'Leave no-one behind'.

The EU should ensure that it takes full account of intersecting and cumulative discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, ability and other characteristics, and recognises the data needed to explore this, in its Consensus on Development.

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



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



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

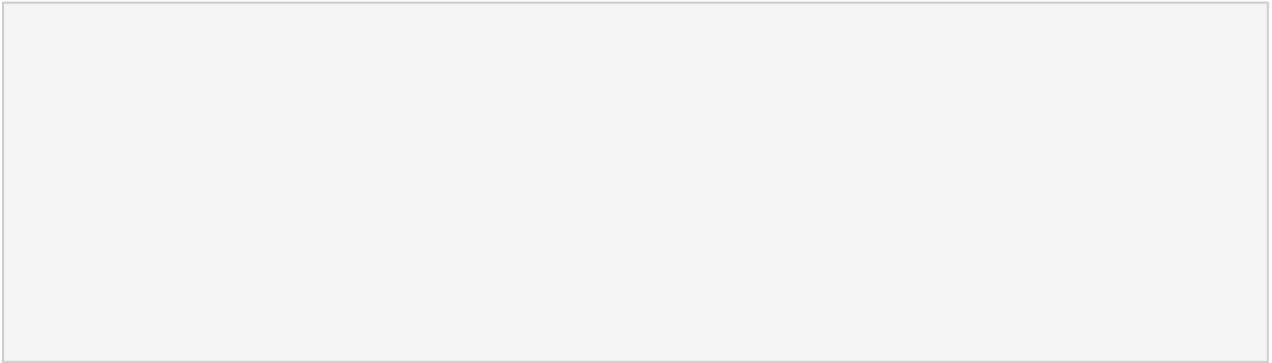
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The principle of universality underpinning the 2030 Agenda will require a differentiated approach to engagement with countries at all levels of development. Official Development Assistance will continue to play an important role in the overall financing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

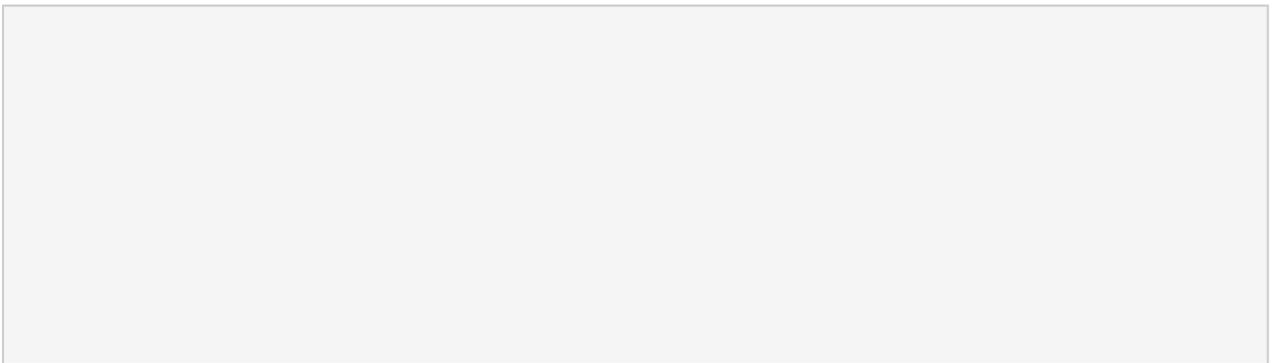
The EU's implementation of the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for enhancing consistency between the different areas of the EU's external action and between these and other EU policies (as outlined in the Lisbon Treaty and in [EU's Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crises](#)). The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

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

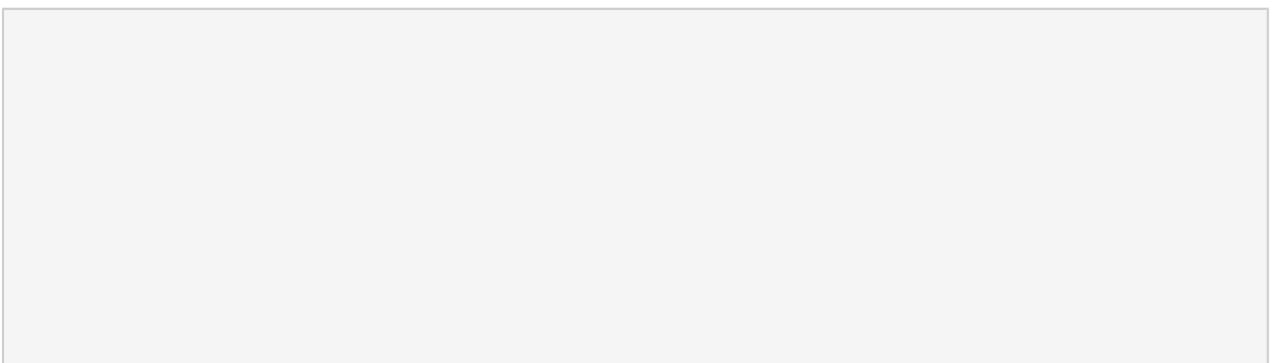
5.1 How can EU policies, and EU development policy in particular, help to mobilise and maximise the impact of the increasing variety of sustainable development finance, including in particular from the private sector?



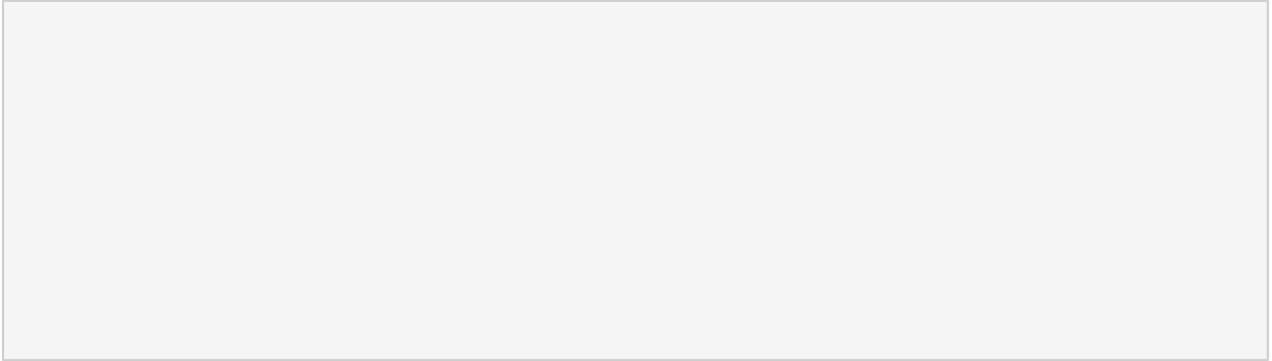
5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance (e.g. [Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015"](#), and inter alia, paragraphs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



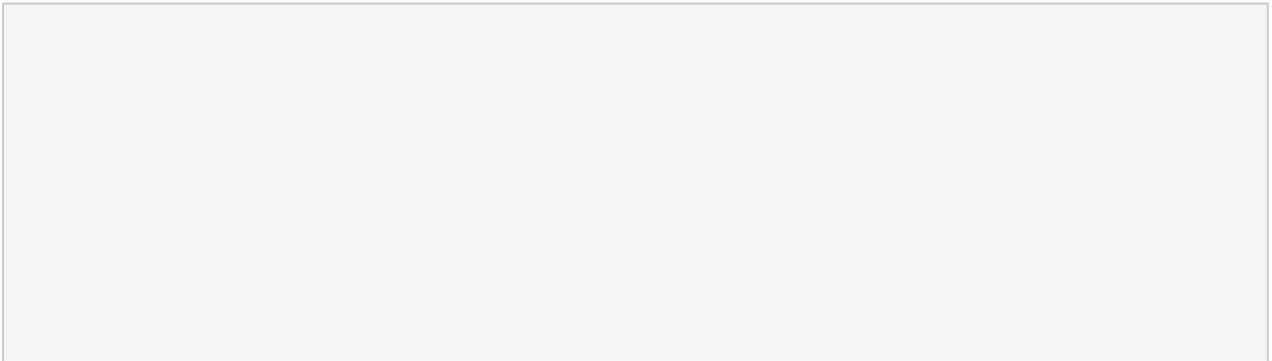
5.3 How can the EU better support partner countries in mobilising their own resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development?



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



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



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

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

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

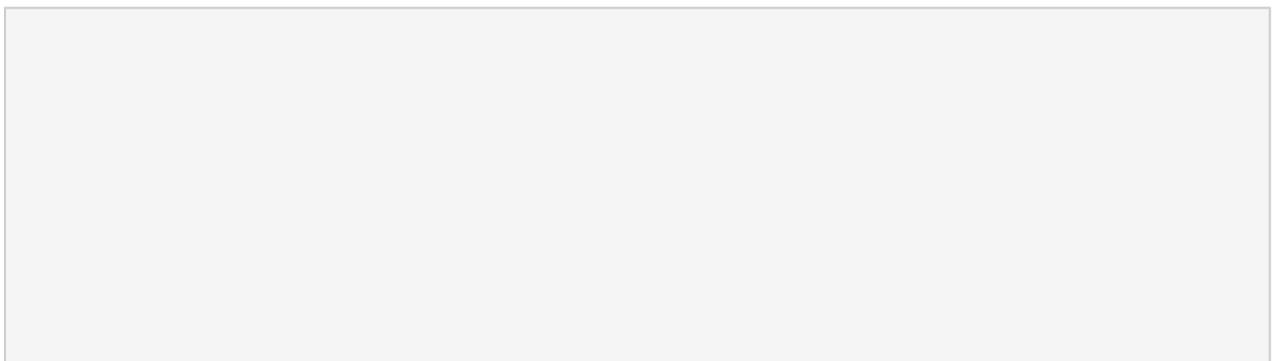
Our partner countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda will inform our overall engagement and our development cooperation dialogue with them and will help shape our support for their national efforts. The EU should also help partner countries put in place the necessary enabling policy frameworks to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

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

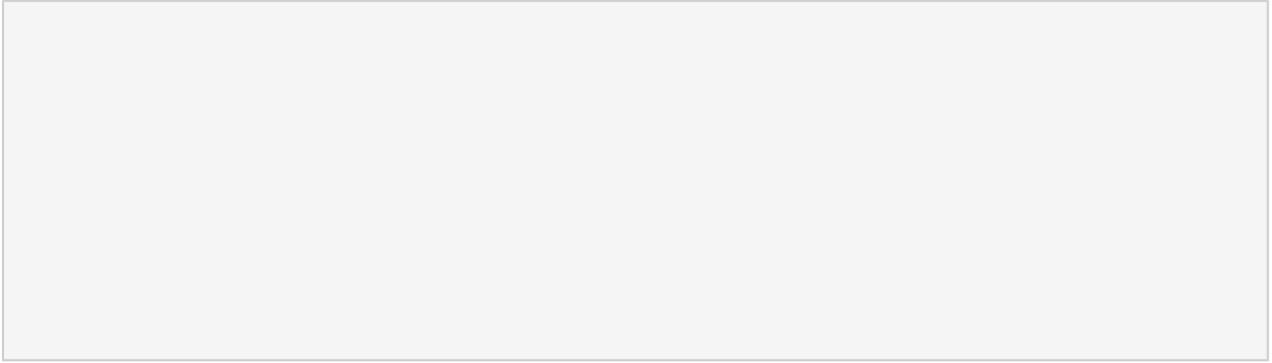
An updated EU development policy should also provide a shared vision that guides the action of the EU and Member States in development cooperation, putting forward proposals on how to further enhance coordination, complementarity and coherence between EU and Member States. Strengthening [Joint Programming](#)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

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

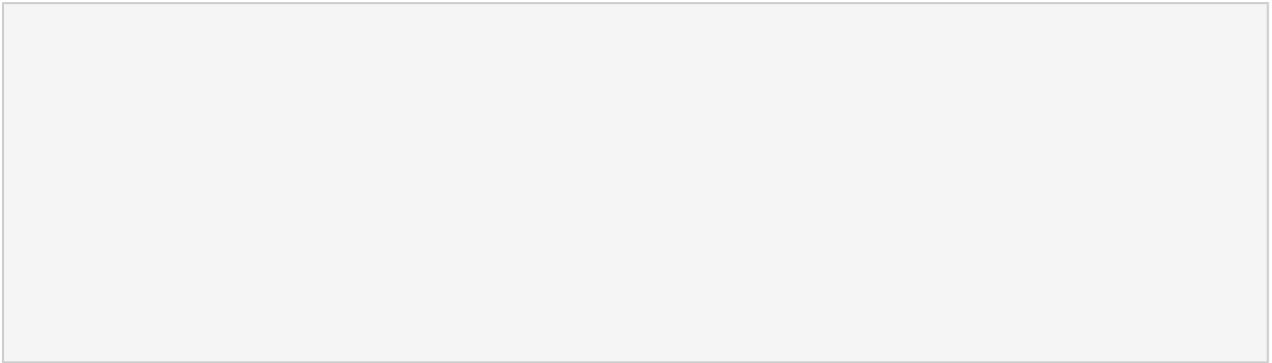
6.1 How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?



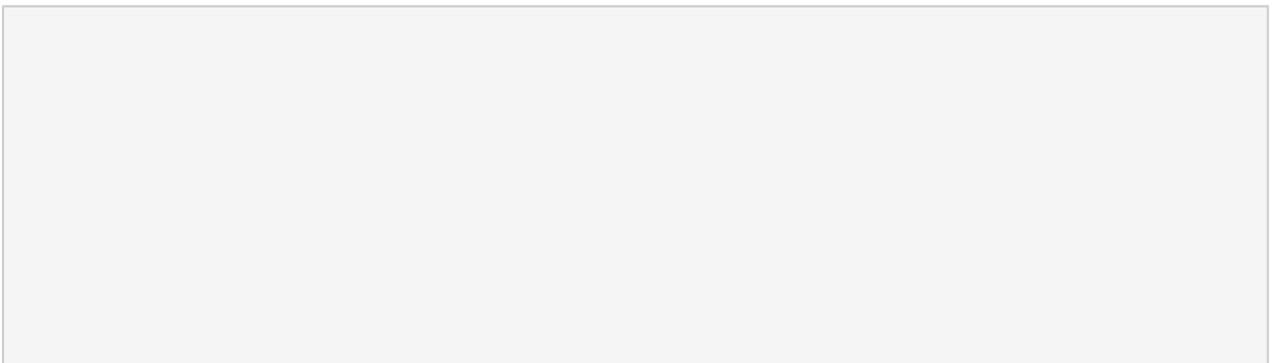
6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?



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



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



6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

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

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

## (7) Keeping track of progress

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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 2030 Agenda can only succeed if the progress it catalyses reaches people of all ages, abilities, ethnicities and genders. In order to create appropriate policies and monitor their progress, high quality data is urgently needed, disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other characteristics identified in target 17.18.

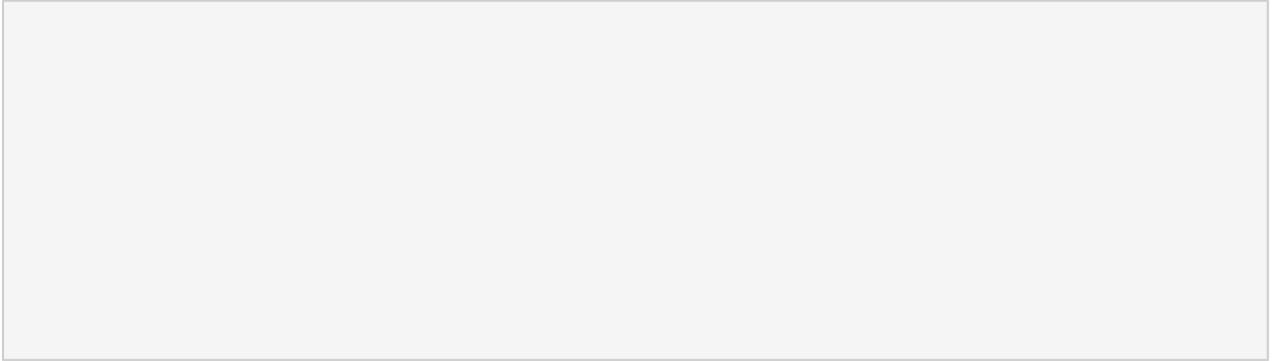
The realities of older women and men are too often made invisible due to a lack of internationally comparable data. Surveys such as Demographic and Health Surveys which are likely to provide much of the data to measure progress against the 2030 Agenda are often currently capped with an upper age limit, excluding older people. Where older people are included in data, older women and men are often grouped into a single cohort of 60 or 65+, instead of in five-year age bands.

However, the language of the 2030 Agenda clearly states across many goals and targets that they must be implemented for people 'of all ages'. This means that investment will have to be made in building capacity for better and more accessible data mechanisms, and support for national governments to boost their own data, to help policymakers understand the specific experiences, needs and contributions of different population groups.

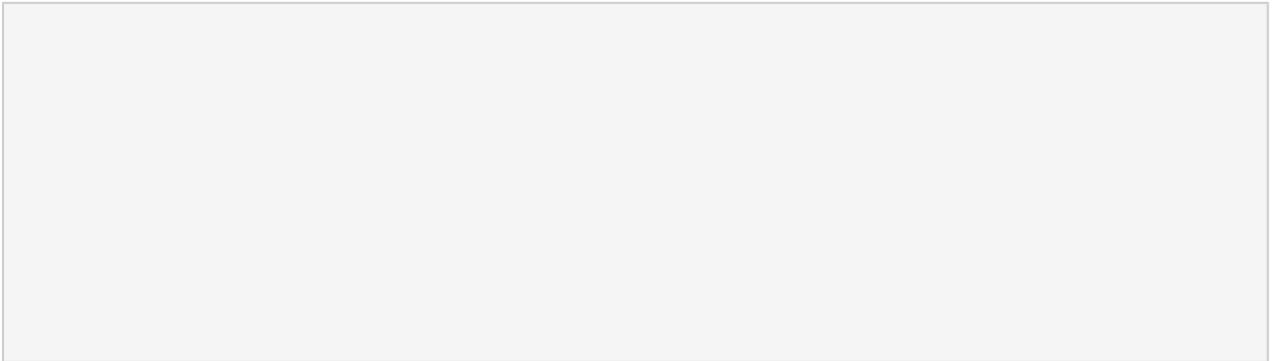
A European Commission Communication in 2014 highlighted the importance of data disaggregation and stated that population dynamics must be mainstreamed across all the targets. Now the EU should play its role in ensuring this is implemented in practice, supporting the collection of data for all age groups in five-year cohorts.

The new revised European Consensus on Development must include a strong statement about the need for urgent investment in high quality, timely and accessible disaggregated data. Data disaggregated across the life course will also help to build a clearer picture of the multiple and intersecting inequalities experienced by individuals. Working with national and international actors - including member states - on a transformative approach to data, the EU can help to set a high standard for meeting the 2030 Agenda's overarching commitment to 'Leave no-one behind'.

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



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



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