

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

- * 2.2.1 If yes, what is your registration number?

11610562644-55

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

Save the Children 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

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

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

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

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

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

The rise of inequality within and between states, as well as across generations, is a critical global trend. The MDGs have improved life chances of those groups of people that were easiest to reach, while many others still face discrimination and lack access to basic public services because of who they are and where they live: Two-thirds of families who experience health, nutrition and education poverty in low- and lower middle-income countries are

headed by a person from an ethnic minority group. Indigenous groups make up 5% of the global population but 15% of those people in poverty. Children with disabilities are 3-4 times more likely to experience physical and sexual violence and neglect than their peers. And despite overall positive increase in primary school attendance by girls, girls in the poorest households are less likely to be in school than boys in the poorest households.

In this context, poverty remains a key issue mainly (although not exclusively) in developing countries. The world has committed to end poverty within a generation, but for many children today, poverty is not an accident of birth, but a result of deliberate policy choices. Where people are poor and discriminated against, they suffer exclusion. Impacts, whether through climate change, demographic shifts, conflict or other political and economic challenges, are felt most where people are marginalised. With 1 in 10 children today living in conflict-affected countries, and even more living in situations of fragility, much is at stake in ensuring they are not left further behind. Exclusion has huge impacts on their life chances, their communities and the wider world. For example, excluded children:

...have poorer access than other children to quality health and education services, and to water, sanitation and electricity. A child in the Afar region of Ethiopia is almost nine times less likely to be vaccinated against killer diseases than a child in Addis Ababa, the capital. Discrimination in access to water and sanitation on the basis of race and ethnicity has been documented for indigenous people in Costa Rica and Rwanda, for Dalits in Bangladesh, Roma in Europe, and communities of Korean descent in Japan.

...are more likely to experience violence than their cohorts.

Excluded groups, including children with disabilities, street children and children from ethnic, racial, caste or indigenous groups that are discriminated against are more vulnerable to violence. There is a growing body of evidence that violence against children increases their risk of being subjected to and perpetrating subsequent violence, and of experiencing a downward spiral of marginalisation, isolation, and exploitation. Violence is preventing children and young people from achieving their potential: Parents often stop their children, especially girls, going to school if they risk sexual harassment, rape or other forms of abuse.

...are more likely to face stigmatisation and unfair cultural practices.

For example, despite extensive legislation prohibiting child marriage, it continues in many parts of the world under customary laws, with huge intergenerational costs borne by young girls and their offspring whose life chances are curtailed, as well as wider society.

...are more likely to be persecuted because of their beliefs or identity.

For example, child migrants who do not conform to gender or sexual stereotypes (including those self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or questioning) report encountering severe verbal and physical abuse by parents and family members, from an early age - some from as young as five.

...are more likely to be administratively invisible, i.e., unregistered.

This makes it much harder for children to access health and education services and claim their rights which would enable them to achieve their potential and contribute to society.

...are more likely to be adversely affected by disasters related to climate

change.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “socially and geographically disadvantaged people exposed to persistent inequalities at the intersection of various dimensions of discrimination based on gender, age, race, class, caste, and disability are particularly negatively affected by climate change and climate-related hazards.”

...may face long-term psychological damage.

Research has long established that the early stages of life are of enormous importance in development. Discrimination and undignified treatment may result in children internalising inequality, believing they are inherently ‘worth less’ than others. In a controlled experiment in India, boys from high and low caste displayed the same ability to solve mazes under monetary incentives, but low-caste boys performed worse if the name and caste of the boys were announced at the beginning of the session.

Without tackling exclusion, progress in reducing poverty will slow and may halt altogether.

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 line with the Agenda 2030 pledge to leave no one behind, the EU’s development policy should have a particular focus on those left furthest behind, the most deprived and marginalised groups, especially children. For the reasons we laid out above, children who face exclusion are those least likely to survive, learn and be protected. In line with the SDGs:

In line with Goals 2 and 3 the EU needs to ensure that these children survive by:

- accelerating progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), including by supporting national UHC plans within the International Health Partnership+ mechanism (including newborn action plans), and also by supporting provision of services free at the point of delivery, and breaking down barriers that prevent excluded groups from accessing quality services, so that everyone has access to essential quality care without financial hardship;
- Ensure the development and strengthening of health systems so that they are able to build towards UHC and also respond to emerging health threats and infectious disease outbreaks;
- support nutrition specific interventions to tackle both wasting and stunting; nutrition sensitive interventions to tackle the drivers of malnutrition; and ensure all services support the nutritional and health needs of all, particularly for pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescent girls;
- contributing 0.1% of GNI to health ODA, thereby helping low and lower middle income countries strengthen national health plans;
- taking steps to address the exceptional human resource crisis of

health providers.

In line with Goal 4 the EU needs to ensure that these children learn by:

- promoting early childhood care, development and education in developing countries, with a focus on reaching excluded groups of children;
- prioritising learning adopting an approach based on learning outcomes to ensure that every last child is able at least to read and write (it is important children are in school, but we need to ensure they learn there);
- maintaining and further strengthening its commitment to education in emergencies and protracted crises through support for Education Cannot Wait
- ensuring that children's education and learning is not interrupted during protracted crises – supporting education sector plans and/or refugee education plans in countries hosting large numbers of displaced children.
- and promoting the endorsement of the Safe School Declaration.

In line with Goal 16 as well as Goal 5, the EU needs to ensure that these children are protected by:

- supporting partner countries in strengthening their child protection systems, including promoting birth registration for every last child;
- promoting policies and practices that prohibit and eliminate physical and humiliating punishment in all settings (including at school and in the home);
- committing and ensuring that partner countries commit to the Global Partnership to End Violence against children;
- protecting children from violence in conflict situations and working towards bringing those responsible for grave violations against children to account;
- ensuring that children at risk of being associated with harmful gangs and armed forces can access prevention and response programmes.

The EU should have a focus on inequality across all policy areas – in line with Goal 10 (on Inequality) and Goal 5 (on Gender Equality) but also relevant to Goals tackling Hunger, on Health, Education and Ending Violence – and set stepping stone equity targets in each of them. Stepping stone targets are interim benchmarks between 2016 and 2030 that monitor the progress of different groups and ensure all are on track to meet SDG targets. This requires the EU to prioritise the principle of disaggregating data in its development policy and programming.

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

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

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

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

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

At its core, climate change is an issue of equity, across wealth and geography today, but also and across generations. Its impacts are felt differently – often more acutely – by the poorest and most marginalised people. EU policies should better reflect the interconnected nature of tackling climate change and inequality. Development gains will be lost if we do not pursue policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and help climate affected communities adapt; whilst we will not prevent climate change without adopting sustainable development policies across a range of core areas, notably energy policy. SDG 7, to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, is critical to addressing the twin challenges of equity and climate change. Climate change and SDG goals will not be achieved unless we phase out fossil fuels subsidies, increase the share of renewables in the global energy mix, reduce water consumption in energy production processes, and mobilise and scale-up climate finance that is additional to existing developing finance. European countries need to adjust their climate plans in line with the Paris Agreement – recognising the human development impacts of failure to do so – as an essential pre-requisite to achieving the SDGs. Given the cross-sectoral impact of climate change, addressing this issue would also have an impact on the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate change exacerbates fragility and vulnerability. The EU should focus on tackling climate change as a root cause of fragility and vulnerability, including conflict which leads to malnutrition, natural disasters and drives children and their families from their homes. For instance, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and the EU action plan for its implementation are good practices that link climate change as a root cause of fragility and vulnerability to increasing the resilience of crisis-affected communities, thereby addressing 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?

Each SDG includes a social, economic and environmental dimension. EU internal and external policies need to acknowledge the interconnected nature of such dimensions and address all of them in a balanced way, without privileging one over the other, if an SDG is to be considered as fully achieved. For instance, economic growth can be important for boosting the financial resources that are required for poverty eradication. However, economic growth can be compromised if it is not accompanied by investment in the health, education and well-being of the workforce, and if it undermines the natural resource base. Economic prosperity in many corners of the globe has come at a huge cost to the environment: the global climate is changing, the oceans are acidifying and species losses are accelerating. Climate change is the largest market failure of our time, with some estimates suggesting economic growth in poor countries can be reduced by an average of 1.3 percentage points for every degree of warming. The EU should use the SDG framework to reaffirm the importance of investing in environmental and social outcomes now. It can do so by putting together an overarching EU implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda – recognising clearly that the strategy covers both internal and external policies, and the role of the Member States as well as the EU institutions. In tandem, the EU's development policy should look beyond GDP as an indicator of well-being through focusing on and measuring its success in supporting those furthest behind, such as children living in climate-affected communities, in rural areas, girls, children with disabilities or children living in slums or on the street. The EU's development policy should systematically take a lens to the needs of the most marginalised from economic, social and environmental processes. The alignment of EU development policy and programming with IAEG-SDG indicators and the inclusion of beneficiary groups in monitoring, accountability and review processes will be critical to ensuring that the EU development policy keeps this focus on tackling poverty (in line Article 208 of the Treaty) in sustainable ways, whilst also getting to grips with inequality of outcomes.

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

The EU should maintain a clear and independent development policy. Even where there is closer coordination with other external actions (foreign policy, humanitarian response, migration), development policy has a specific role and remit, it should not be instrumentalised to pursue other policy objectives. Similarly, the EU should also increase cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, mainly through joint programming and resilience-based approaches, while at the same time ensuring that the independence and impartiality of humanitarian aid is not compromised. It is crucial that the EU acknowledges the different objectives and legal bases of development and

humanitarian action, and in turn, their distinction from policies premised on preventing migration. The EU should be clear that its development policy objectives are based on Article 208 (on reduction and eradication of poverty) is therefore distinct from policies premised on the objective of keeping migrants at home.

The new development policy framework should accordingly strengthen the accountability of the EU member states to allocate 0,7% of their GNI to development cooperation and ensure that this commitment is achieved without inflating ODA by counting refugee costs spent in EU countries as ODA. Above all, the new framework will have to prevent calls for more flexible development aid to be interpreted as ways to secure deals with countries of origin and transit in order to stem migration flows.

In addition to a greater strategic focus on tackling inequality and reaching the most marginalised (see earlier answers to questions 3.1 and 4.6), the EU should reaffirm and strengthen the principle of Policy Coherence for Development, enshrined in the Treaty, by applying it to sustainable development - Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. The areas covered by PCSD should include all those in the 2030 Agenda to minimise the negative effects of EU policy and practice on the development policy objective of alleviating poverty. For example, that employment of health sector workers by EU member states is not detrimental to the target of achieving Universal Health Coverage in developing countries by undermining their human resources for health; that the EU's R&D budget funds paediatric formulations based upon de-linking research costs and intervention prices; and that EU trade policies do not undermine access to essential medicines required for maternal and infant care in developing countries, (notably via TRIPS plus provisions such as data exclusivity within trade agreements).

The new EU development policy framework should endorse the spirit and the letter of SDG16 in supporting principles such as accountability, participation and combatting violence. First, ensuring and fostering accountability to children through civic education and involving children in participatory processes, such as child-friendly budgeting, are key to ensuring that children are able to contribute and in turn foster open, accountable and inclusive governance necessary to ensure development is a success. The EU should also address the global tendency towards shrinking space for civil society. At a time when SDG16 recognises the need for governance and accountability in ensuring peaceful and sustainable societies, and when civil society plays a key role in implementing development, governments are increasingly limiting civil society's scope to operate, placing financial, legal and political barriers. The EU must reaffirm the importance of CSOs as development actors in their own right, as well as accountability actors building on existing frameworks on such the 2012 Communication on The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations and the 2015 Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan by acknowledging the specific role of civil society as implementers as well as monitors of development assistance.

Finally, the EU should support stronger international cooperation to

strengthen tax systems and fiscal policy reforms in developing countries in order to ensure that they contribute to efforts by governments towards more and better spending on children. This may include helping developing countries leverage information and communication technologies, reforming tax laws and enhancing staff capacities to handle complex issues such as taxation of Multi-National Companies (MNCs). These measures are key to enable the governments of developing countries increase the share of taxes as a proportion of GDP, and do this in a way that is progressive and addresses inequalities faced by children through a redistribution of income from the richest in society to help the poorest. A recent study by Save the Children of 32 countries showed that a child in the richest 10% of households has 35 times the available income of a child in the poorest 10% of households.

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

The EU's external action should address the root causes of today's challenges rather than focusing on crisis management of symptoms. In line with its treaty commitment to ensure Policy Coherence for Development the EU should ensure greater consistency between its development and other external policies impacting on poverty alleviation, notably trade and migration, from the point of view of eradicating poverty, improving living conditions and upholding the respect of human rights in countries of origin. The Communication on Forced Displacement and Development "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance" has some good components aimed at tackling root causes of forced displacement, including conflict, human rights violations and poverty. However, the EU has since contradicted those efforts with its June 2016 Migration Partnership framework which appears to condition development aid on partner countries' efforts to prevent migration. The EU should be clear that its development policy objectives and funding are based on Article 208 "Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty," and is therefore distinct from policies and funding mechanisms premised on the objective of keeping migrants at home. The EU should also support partner countries to incorporate migration management into national development plans and the local civil society to ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making and respect for human rights.

In protracted crises greater consistency should be achieved between development and humanitarian policies to link short and longer term responses to the needs of crisis-affected populations, including especially children. In concrete terms, this means ensuring humanitarian interventions are adequately funded and that development efforts build on their results. On the development policy side, this would require early warning systems, joint programming and the use of crisis modifiers to reorient development funds when a crisis strikes. The EU should be clear in its development policy that notions of "state and societal resilience", as expounded in the recent EU Global Strategy, are grounded in community-based approaches, investment in prevention - of famine, conflict, pandemic disease etc - and Disaster Risk Reduction (the notion of "building back better") - and are not merely stabilisation or security-focused.

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 can continue to leverage its position as the largest donor, together with its member states, as well as main trade partner, to support sustainable development objectives in line with the SDGs. In particular, the EU's development policy focus and expertise on human and social development is critical to ensuring that most vulnerable people, including children, are not left behind. In addition to maintaining a strong policy and funding focus on human development sectors, the EU can draw on its extensive presence worldwide through a network of 139 delegations to be a reliable development partner in almost every developing country, including where no EU member state is present, and especially in fragile states where EU member states have withdrawn their programming. With an increasing portion of the world's poor expected to live in fragile and conflict-affected states, the EU has a role to play in fostering development in these contexts. In a number of contexts EU development aid is considered less interest-led than individual member states, and is therefore able to play the role of an honest broker. The EU is also in a unique position in upholding and promoting the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. Finally, the EU has an added value in promoting human rights and has an inherent transformative power that needs to be preserved – inter alia by the EU acting consistently with its stated values and human rights principles and not undermining them – in the face of the current migration crisis.

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?

To address growing inequalities, the EU needs to refine its development policy to reach first and foremost those excluded groups, including children, who have been left furthest behind. The world's forgotten children are children experiencing a combination of poverty and discrimination, resulting in their exclusion. A way to tackle this systematically will be to ensure there is fair finance so that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind; equal treatment of all people (so that for example street children or displaced children, stateless children and migrating children etc.) do not face discriminatory policies as a result of their status, or additional legal barriers to accessing services; and accountability to vulnerable populations, including children.

First, to provide fair finance, the EU needs to re-commit to more and better public financing through fulfilling 0.7% ODA and through ensuring that its development policy continues to prioritise the health and social sectors, honouring the 20% benchmark of expenditure dedicated to human development sectors in the EU 7-year budget, the Multi-Annual Financial Framework. It

also needs to promote the transparency of the international tax system, and support developing country governments to raise tax revenue progressively (see question 5.3).

Second, to ensure equal treatment, the EU should work with partner governments to change discriminatory policies and remove legal barriers that perpetuate the exclusion of vulnerable populations. The EU should ensure a robust analysis, with a focus on age, gender and other types of discrimination, underpins its development aid in any given country and assesses how its aid addresses the specific needs of excluded women, men and girls and boys. In concrete terms, this means ensuring that all girls as well as boys continue to receive access to quality and equitable learning opportunities and outcomes in line with SDG 4; that health services are provided free at the point of use to those currently most vulnerable, particularly women and children, as a first step towards delivering Universal Health Coverage; that policies are supported to prevent discriminatory and harmful practices such as FGM; that we address norms which have led 720 million women to be married before they were 18 - compared with 156 million men; and that all children are protected from violence including at school. Across all of these areas, the focus should be on reaching the furthest behind first. To provide for accountability, which the EU championed during the SDG negotiations, the EU's development policy should be part of an overarching strategy to implement the SDGs within and outside the EU, which provides meaningful, safe and inclusive spaces for excluded children to participate in decision-making and in the design or revision of accountability processes. As part of reviewing its own development policy and programming, the EU should also incorporate safe and systematic methods to obtain and take into account the views and perspectives of children and young people on their own situations and how they experience development initiatives, and should encourage its development partners to do so.

Finally, as part of its commitment to implement the SDGs, the EU can support the monitoring of efforts to reach the most disadvantaged and excluded populations: supporting initiatives and new methods to strengthen data collection, disaggregation and analysis of status and progress among population groups who are excluded, extremely poor or not covered by conventional household surveys, such as displaced persons, street children, slum populations and persons with disabilities.

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?

The EU development policy can contribute to the security of people by promoting social cohesion, building inclusive societies and social protection systems, and strong health systems (as we learnt from the case of Ebola). It means ensuring that development policy and programming in a given context is sufficiently flexible to adapt to crisis modifiers where there are predictable, slow-onset events which will undermine the security of poor people (e.g. the case of Ethiopia's drought which is the result of a cyclical slow-onset climate affect, El Nino). EU development policy can also contribute to people's security through the establishment of democratic institutions and upholding human rights, addressing inequalities, strengthening civil societies, coordinating development and migration policies to promote the self-reliance of displaced populations and the resilience of host communities. In the context of conflict-affected states it is important to acknowledge that development policies, as well as the humanitarian ones, can never replace political solutions. The EU should prioritise investment in children, to ensure that the future generation has the tools and capacities to help build their country and be active citizens, and that no child loses their future because of conflict. Ending everyday violence, both in peaceful and conflict-affected societies, can stop perpetuating cycles of violence. The EU should invest in supporting partner countries in strengthening their child protection systems, including promoting birth registration for every last child and promoting policies and practices that prohibit and eliminate physical and humiliating punishment in all settings (including at school and in the home). AS part of this investment building non-violent, prosperous societies in which rights are respected, the EU should support and ensure that partner countries commit to the Global Partnership to End Violence against children.

Peaceful and secure societies benefit from open, inclusive and accountable governance. The EU should explicitly support and promote accountability and governance in its development policy as a means to contribute to the security and resilience of partner countries. In practice this means fostering access to information for, and spaces for participation for, beneficiary groups, including children, to understand and discuss EU policies and programmes and those of partner governments.

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?

In order to harness opportunities presented by migration, and create more opportunities for children and the communities hosting them, education and

child protection in countries of origin, transit and destination is key. Only one in four refugee children of secondary age is in school. Save the Children is calling for a political commitment to ensure that no refugee child goes without education for more than 1 month. The EU should support this commitment and underpin it by supporting refugee education plans in countries hosting large numbers of displaced children. Studies show that education protects children, and enables them to integrate and their host communities to understand what it means to be a refugee or migrant child. Save the Children has just piloted a programme in Germany which combines training for staff working with refugee and migrant children in reception centres with support to the government to improve reception conditions and child protection standards. This dual approach of training staff and teachers, and working with the government to improve child protection and education of refugee and migrant children, can be replicated in countries of origin, transit and destination.

To minimise the negative effects of irregular migration, the EU and member states should prioritise reducing irregular migration through facilitating safe, regular mobility to Europe for those in need of international protection and other migrants including through resettlement, humanitarian admission and humanitarian visas, family reunification, worker mobility across skill levels and student visas. There are very few legal ways to reach Europe, even though both the right to asylum (Art. 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU) and the responsibility to combat irregular migration and trafficking (Art. 79 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU) are deeply engrained in the European treaties. Member states must commit to clear benchmarks and appropriate timelines for implementing a migration framework that meets the needs of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, their families, as well as member states' needs and obligations. Any framework to manage migration should be based on fair responsibility sharing between EU member states and between the EU and third countries.

The EU's migration agenda is putting pressure on development aid, which is now being redirected and instrumentalised to curb migration and strengthen internal security and border controls. Redirecting EU development aid in order to manage - or stop - migration to Europe is in contradiction with the primary objective of development cooperation as enshrined in the Treaty of Lisbon: the reduction and eradication of poverty. This will affect the world's most vulnerable populations, as they generally do not have the financial means to migrate and, with less resources available, they run the risk of sinking deeper into poverty. This also risks depriving countries that are not places of origin or transit of migrants of much needed resources to remedy inequalities and impinging on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Development aid should remain needs driven and target the most vulnerable populations. Additional budget lines need to be created for migration management.

The EU can better address root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement by investing in analysis of the complex reality of migration (including at EU delegation level) to understand what drives people to move in a certain context. Migration has many drivers. People move in search of

new livelihood opportunities, a decent education for their children, or because they are faced with violence, discrimination and wars. This will allow for more targeted programming aimed at not only addressing root causes, but also reducing the protection risks faced by people on the move and in their home communities; in particular the vulnerabilities faced by children on the move or children who were left behind when parents migrate. Overall, more investment in child protection systems and education in third countries could contribute to addressing root causes of irregular migration.

The EU's new approach of conditioning the delivery of aid on partnerships with third countries who will readmit and return asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, is not following a needs- or evidence based approach. Aid is for the benefit of people in need, and should not be used as leverage for migration control. EU funding should be transparent and adhere to clearly established principles, such as the Busan principles on effectiveness and the Paris principles of ownership by and alignment to partner countries' strategies. Striking 'migration management' agreements with countries where grave human rights violations are committed will be counter-productive in the longer term - undermining human rights around the globe and perpetuating the cycle of abuse and repression that causes people to flee.

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

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

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

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

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

The EU should harness the role of the private sector in mobilising the necessary resources to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, as most private companies are profit-driven, their involvement will sometimes be harmful. Therefore, the EU will have to insist that action can be proven to be in line with:

- the principles of development effectiveness;
- the UN Guiding Principles on Business and human rights, including the principle of corporate responsibility to "do no harm";
- the Child Rights and Business Principles developed by Save the Children, UNICEF and the UN Global Compact;
- human rights and commitment to provide access to remedies.

The EU should work with companies and civil society to establish an approach whereby companies move beyond corporate responsibility to place development objectives at the centre of business strategies, including the alignment of financial targets with the development of products, services and value-chain practices that contribute to poverty reduction, human well-being, environmental sustainability and global development agendas such as achieving the SDGs.

The EU should also work towards establishing measures to ensure all businesses apply a 'do no harm' approach to their core business as a minimum. This entails evaluating and disclosing the social impact of company products (e.g., breast milk substitutes and harmful plastics) and practices (such as labour standards, including minimum and living wages or tax strategies), as well as indirect impacts (such as environmental footprints or involvement in land acquisition through mechanisms such as free, prior and informed consent).

It is only when companies understand these impacts themselves that they can orient their business models towards creating shared value. Further, it is only when they publish their data that investors can make informed decisions about aligning their investment with sustainable development objectives, and civil society and governments can hold companies to account. An important step forward would be the publication of public country-by-country reports on the amount of tax paid by companies in each jurisdiction they operate. Such transparency would help civil society to call governments to account in seeking to maximise tax revenue to spend on tackling poverty.

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

The EU member states should stick to their commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries in the short term, while reaching 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda. Special assistance is needed for Small Island Developing States and fragile states. However, Middle Income Countries (MICs) should not be forgotten considering that 75% of the world's extreme poor live in these countries. In these countries, ODA could be instrumental in catalysing change that meets the needs of the poorest people whilst at the same time strengthening public finance systems, especially on tax collection (e.g. policy and programme design, data collection and service delivery in still-underserved areas).

The majority of ODA should be provided in the form of grants. In fact, ODA given in the form of loans can, inter alia, increase debt vulnerability. Heavy debt burdens can leave governments with little fiscal space to increase spending on children. It is also important that ODA is untied to give developing countries, especially LDCs, the policy space to focus on the needs they have defined themselves. Finally, the EU should ensure that ODA supports national-led plans for investing in children, such as strengthening universal education, social protection, health and child protection systems, as well as strengthening national public finance management systems, especially on tax collection.

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

Public finance continues to be critical to reaching those furthest behind. At present, international donors are increasingly stepping back and domestic governments are unable to step up. Development aid, in particular Official Development Assistance, could leverage the capacity of national authorities to collect local resources to address inequalities and thereby reduce poverty. Research by Save the Children found that if all developing countries were to mobilise 20% of GDP in tax revenue, while keeping social spending allocations constant, 287,000 child deaths could be averted each year. At present, half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa collect less than 17% of their gross domestic product (GDP) in tax; in rich countries the average is 35%. Public financing – both ODA and domestic resources together – are much needed to make a difference for the excluded children, allowing them to survive, learn and be protected.

International cooperation on tax matters is critical to support national efforts to increase domestic resource mobilisation: EU member states should strengthen their own measures and support efforts by developing countries to crack down on tax havens through pressuring all jurisdictions to move towards automatic exchange of tax information, and implement public registers of the true owners of companies and trusts. EU member states should require public country-by-country reporting by multinational companies on financial information, including key data on profits made, taxes paid; subsidies received; turnover; and number of employees.

The EU should work with partner countries, including through enhanced official development assistance, to build national capacity to raise taxes, increase the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the tax system, while at the same time broadening the tax base in a progressive manner to ensure that these measures do not disproportionately affect the poorest. Support to national and sub-national public expenditure impact reviews and analysis can also be effective in strengthening the effectiveness of national resource use for reaching the poorest populations in equitable and sustainable ways. To do this, the EU member states have also to deliver on their ODA commitment. As part of this effort, the EU should also cooperate with partner countries to halt illicit financial flows, make sure that multinational companies pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created and develop good practices on asset return.

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

The EU should engage in a dialogue with middle-income countries' governments on mutual commitments under the SDGs, particularly on health, education and peaceful societies (Goal 16), and sharing relevant best practices, as well as on the SDG means of implementation. The EU should also support civil society organisations to speak out against human rights violations and governance failures, and to build sustainable issue-based platforms to help governments address major challenges such as persistent inequalities, structural poverty and malnutrition, urban development and participation.

The EU should acknowledge that ODA and other concessional finance is still important for a number of middle-income countries and has a role to play for targeted results. In these countries ODA could be instrumental in catalysing change that meets the needs of the poorest children and their families whilst at the same time strengthening public finance systems, especially on tax collection.

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?

If the EU is to make a key contribution to the collective effort towards policy coherence for sustainable development, the EU should, when implementing its policies which are likely to affect developing countries, address those issues that underpin all the SDGs: inequality, climate change, children's wellbeing and the empowerment of women and girls. Because of their cross-sectoral nature, these issues can define the main orientations of every EU policy and ensure that progress under these agendas contributes to achieving all the SDGs. The EU can help ensure that policies in developing countries, and multilaterally, contribute coherently to sustainable development priorities through constant dialogue with developing countries and by sharing best practices at the global level, promoting public awareness and supporting civil society engagement.

(6) The actors: making it work together

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

States have the primary responsibility and accountability for implementing the 2030 Agenda. At the same time partnerships with key stakeholders will be critical to delivering the agenda successfully. The EU has already played a significant role in supporting key multistakeholder partnerships e.g. SUN movement (on nutrition), Every Woman Every Child and the Global Partnership for Education. It should press for these initiatives to be aligned with the SDGs, and their support to developing disaggregated data sets for relevant indicators. The EU can play an important role in ensuring that global initiatives such as GAVI and the Global Fund for AIDs TB and Malaria continue

to serve discriminated groups by ensuring “graduating” middle income countries benefit from the drug pricing policies of these initiatives as well as lengthy transitional periods. The EU should include support for the Global Partnership on Ending Violence Against Children which is closely aligned with target 16.2.

Civil society has a role to play in implementing the SDGs. The EU already has strong policies on the role of civil society, notably the 2012 EU communication on “Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations” and its 2015 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, which commit to promote a more conducive environment for CSOs so that they can fully play their role in the delivery of social services, in policy advocacy, and as watchdogs promoting accountability. The EU should align its development policy with public and private diplomacy to ensure that independent civil society has the political and funding space to operate, reminding all UN states of their commitments to ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making (Target 16.7); access to public information and protecting fundamental freedoms (Target 16.10);

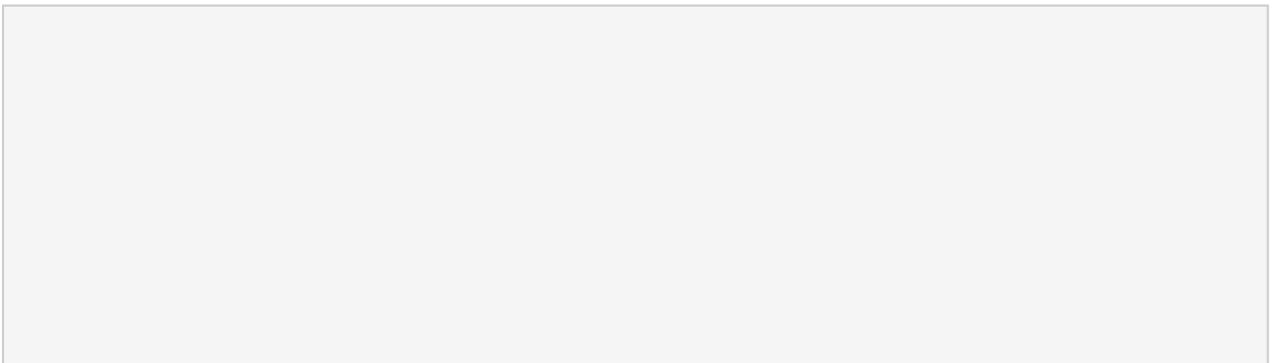
The EU must ensure that the private sector carries its share of responsibility for successfully implementing Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement whilst being harnessed as a catalyst for change: The private sector stands to benefit from a successful Agenda 2030 as stable, more equal and well-educated societies, and healthier, more prosperous populations lead to new and stronger markets. In turn the private sector must play its role in mobilising the necessary resources to support Agenda 2030 as well as EU policies. Yet today’s dominant narrative is sometimes in danger of seeing businesses as an unalloyed purveyor of positive outcomes, rather than acknowledging that their actions have often undermined development progress and human rights. The EU will need to insist that action can be proven to be in line with the principles on development effectiveness, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the principles of corporate responsibility to “do no harm”, the Children’s Rights and Business Principles, and the commitment to provide access to remedies. The EU can call on its EU multinationals and national champions to develop policy and procedures to uphold human rights that encompass labour rights, and social and environmental impacts; and to conduct and report on human rights due diligence throughout operations and value chains. It can also work with the private sector and civil society to ensure that EU bilateral agreements in the area of foreign policy, trade, energy and environment are compatible with the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Addis Agenda. An overarching EU strategy on the SDGs would provide a steer to adapt existing policies, comitology and terms of references for expert groups working across a range of policy areas. This would provide certainty and a framework for European private sector engagement.

Strengthening its partnership with local authorities is equally important. Most impact on people’s lives and their environment will be felt at the local level. The EU should provide targeted support to Local Authorities in developing countries to build their capacity to implement the agenda in line with National Implementation Plans. This should be done in a manner

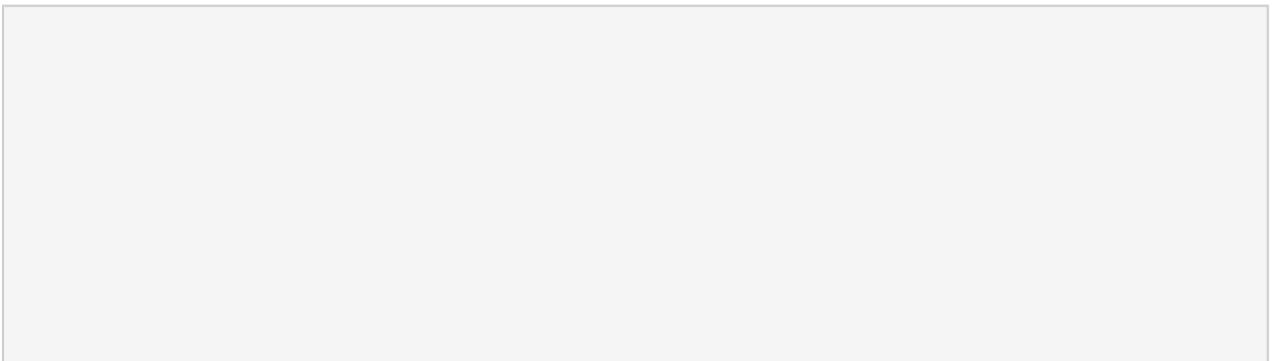
complementary to work supporting civil society organisations and involve putting into place mechanisms which deliver on the accountability to citizens promised in paras 47 and 73 of Agenda 2030.

Finally, working in partnership with all actors on data collection will be critical. The EU can insist on and support the development of disaggregated data since in order to count, people must be counted. This includes supporting new approaches to cover and obtain the views of people who are currently not reached by data collection methods. The EU should also invest in multi-stakeholder partnerships (including academia and CSOs) to develop disaggregated data sets for SDG indicators which deliver for people and the planet, according to the not-for-profit motive, and that this knowledge is shared equally between the Global North and Global South.

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?

The EU and its member states can best support partner countries in developing plans to implement the 2030 Agenda by honouring their ODA commitments, engaging in a technical cooperation dialogue, promoting best practices and favouring an inclusive and participatory dialogue with the civil society. The EU can play a role in strengthening local governmental and civil society capacities in policy analysis and data collection as well as monitoring and reporting. Particular focus should be put on supporting countries to fulfil the pledge to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first.

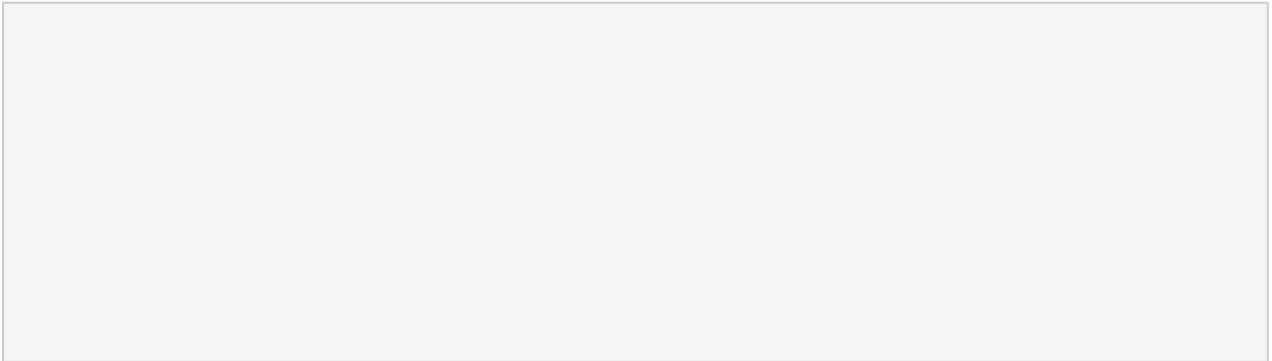
The EU should encourage partners to develop comprehensive and inclusive national plans in partnership with civil society, as well as undertake to do so itself.

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?

See answer 6.1

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

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:

- Prioritise building the capacity of member states' statistical agencies, ensuring that high quality disaggregated data is being collected to monitor inequalities and inform policy responses and that data systems are nationally owned, sustainable and relevant for domestic constituencies.
- Help harmonise existing data collection and capacity-building initiatives, ensuring that data is available for national and international monitoring, and that checks and balances are in place for quality and consistency.
- Commit resources and technical capacity to establishing data baselines to allow for the measurement of progress for all people, including age, gender, identity, disability and geographical groups.
- Harness opportunities presented by new technologies, including supporting participatory data collection, analysis of big data and real-time monitoring.
- Improve the availability and accessibility of data for citizens in order to bolster accountability, trust and partnership.
- Support global initiatives on data collection such as the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data - a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together governments, NGOs and businesses to strengthen the way data is used to support sustainable development efforts.

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

The EU should make sure that its member states are accountable by supporting national and local level accountability processes to enable a structured dialogue between governments and their constituencies, including children. As part of these processes, the state should coordinate periodic national reports on progress, in consultation with civil society and other stakeholders. As regards the private sector, the EU should call on EU companies to conduct and report on human rights due diligence throughout operations and value chains, including policies and processes to identify and manage risks of impacting human rights.

At the regional/EU level, competences and responsibilities for SDG commitments will need to be clearly mapped given that some competences, such as trade, the environment and some global health policies, lie at the EU rather than the national level, whilst others (such as health) are mixed. Ensuring accountability for the 2030 Agenda will require developing an implementation plan with responsibilities clearly designated to the relevant

Commission Directorates' General. This will allow for transparency on EU-level implementation generally, as well as monitoring by civil society actors and the European Parliament. The UN Economic Commission for Europe could provide a venue for EU-level monitoring and accountability processes. Given the EU's commitment to robust accountability, it is important that it institutes a process for specific regional member state accountability such as peer reviews, as well as a process for European Commission accountability - both of which should involve a wide range of civil society actors. These processes should be in addition to and complement accountability processes led by individual EU member states at the national level.

At the global level, the EU should support the review process carried out by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as promoting synergies between this mechanism and existing international human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) within the UN Human Rights Council - a peer-review mechanism that reviews the human rights record of all UN Members States based on the treaties that each state has ratified. The UPR could be expanded to include a review of progress towards the sustainable development goals in line with existing human rights obligations. In addition, progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be systematically considered by the UN human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Human Rights Council special procedures.

Finally, the EU should recognise and support the critical role of civil society, including academia, in monitoring and review of the agenda so as to ensure accountability. All actors who take on responsibilities in implementing the framework or parts of the framework should be held accountable against, at the very minimum, international standards and guidelines on human rights, decent work and environmental sustainability - this should include state as well as non-state actors. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which complements and supports Agenda 2030, calls for improved accountability in a number of areas, not least in the context of the role and responsibilities of the private sector, public-private partnerships, financial institutions, philanthropic organisations and through the transparent provision of information and data.

The EU and its Member States should lead by example in following up on their support during the negotiation phase of Agenda 2030 for rigorous accountability mechanisms by establishing participatory processes involving all stakeholders at national and regional (EU-wide) levels to develop implementation plans and to engage in a systematic way in monitoring, accountability and review.

The EU can also empower and consult civil society as part of any process to implement the 2030 Agenda, and support organisations to engage in monitoring the implementation of the agenda at regional and national level by the EU and its Member States.

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 support developing countries to establish open and inclusive SDG monitoring and review processes. The EU should support also developing country partners to build their capacity to adopt national indicators sets. This may require support to national statistical authorities to collect and analyse disaggregated data – in order to measure progress for the most marginalised groups. The EU should incorporate support to sectoral information management systems in its bilateral programmes, as well as capacity building support to civil society to monitor SDG implementation.

EU can support developing countries in process of reporting the High Level Political Forum, both through setting an example through presenting transparent, self-critical reports on the EU's progress in implementing the Agenda, and showing an openness to civil society voices and views during the HLPF.

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