

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

## (2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

132236315085-89

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

Red Cross EU Office

## 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

The Red Cross EU Office represents 29 Red Cross National Societies in the European Union and Norway, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). We coordinate relations and communications between our members and the EU institutions.

Our activities concentrate on Social Inclusion, Asylum & Migration, International Development Aid and Disaster Management (Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid). The Red Cross EU Office's core mandate includes information capturing and sharing, advocacy and positioning, coordination and fund-raising.

## \* 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

The Red Cross EU Office is a membership office based in Brussels, Belgium. Its members Red Cross National Societies have their HQs in the capital cities of their States (28 EU countries, plus Norway), while the IFRC has its HQs in Geneva, Switzerland

## (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.

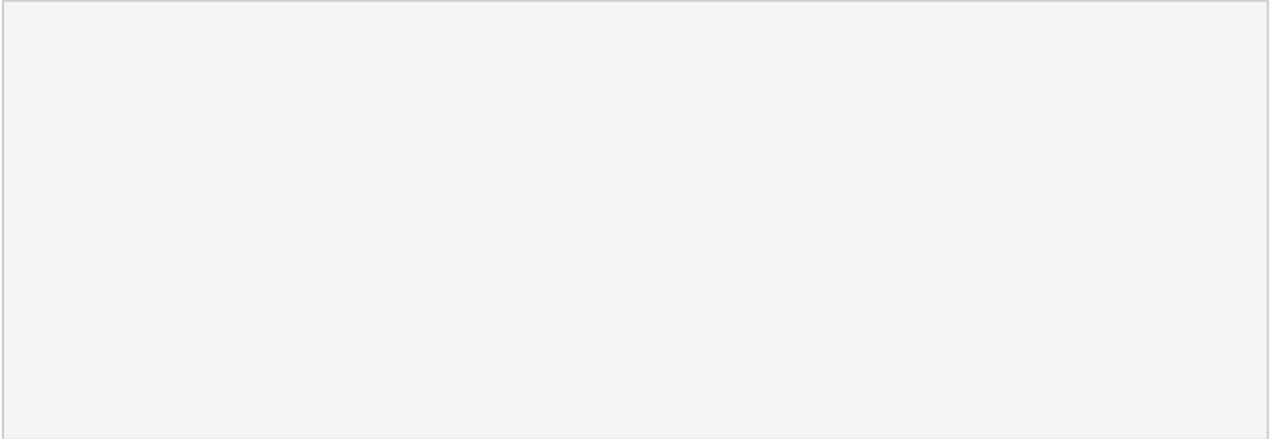
The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level, 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?

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?



(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?

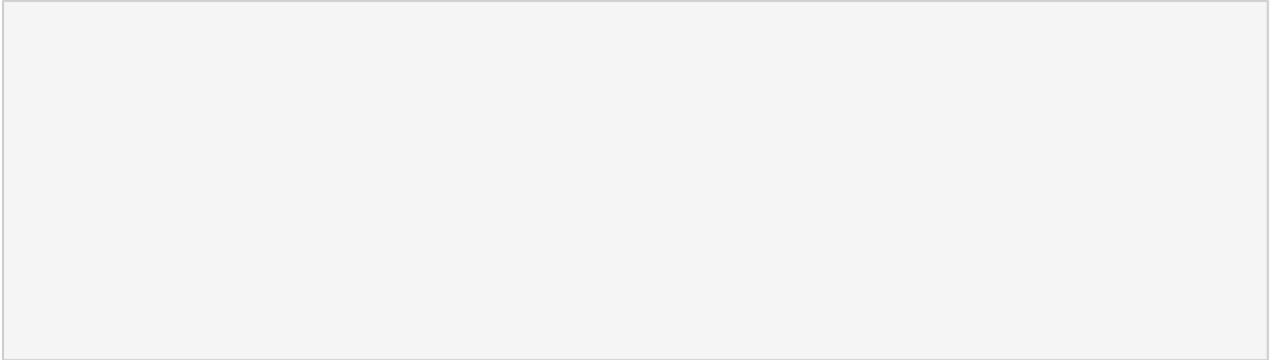
The EU policy agenda must strive to be inclusive of voices and experiences from various initiatives from the civil society and other international organisations working to promote the coherence of policies in development, climate and risk reduction through programme implementation.

Partners for Resilience (PfR) Alliance, an initiative co-funded by the Dutch government, consists of five Dutch-based organisations (Netherlands Red Cross Society, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Care Netherlands, CORDAID and Wetlands International), who work on climate change adaptation, ecosystem management and policy dialogue on responsible investments. Using an approach called Integrated Risk Management (IRM), initiatives in these fields cut across all three policy domains in Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework for DRR and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The IRM approach is proving that the multi-dimensional approach in programmes not only reduces risks to hazards but also positively impacts social and environment sectors through community-centred initiatives.

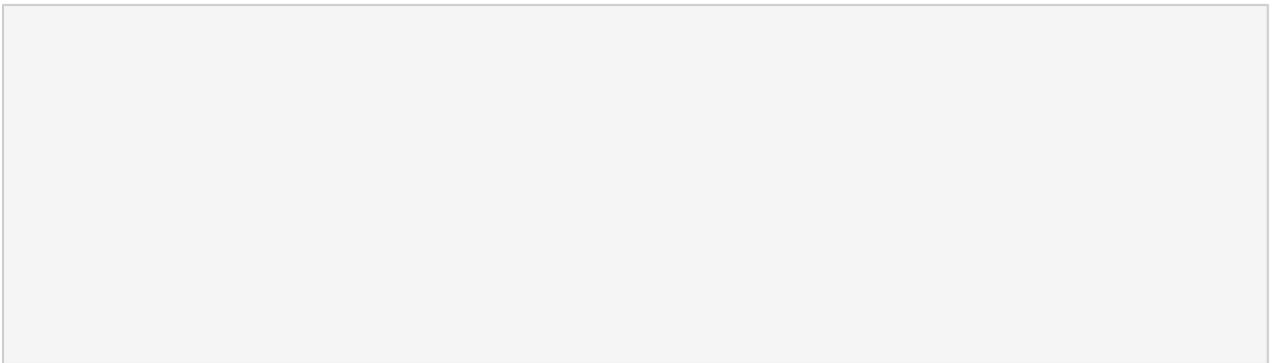
Therefore it should be pointed out that we would like to see the EU to better incorporate DRR into their development work instead only seeing it as a short- to medium term topic in humanitarian assistance. Especially in the context of the EU resilience building activities, the linkages between climate change mitigation, adaptation and long term DRR should be ensured (i.e. SDG13 and the Sendai Framework).

#### 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?

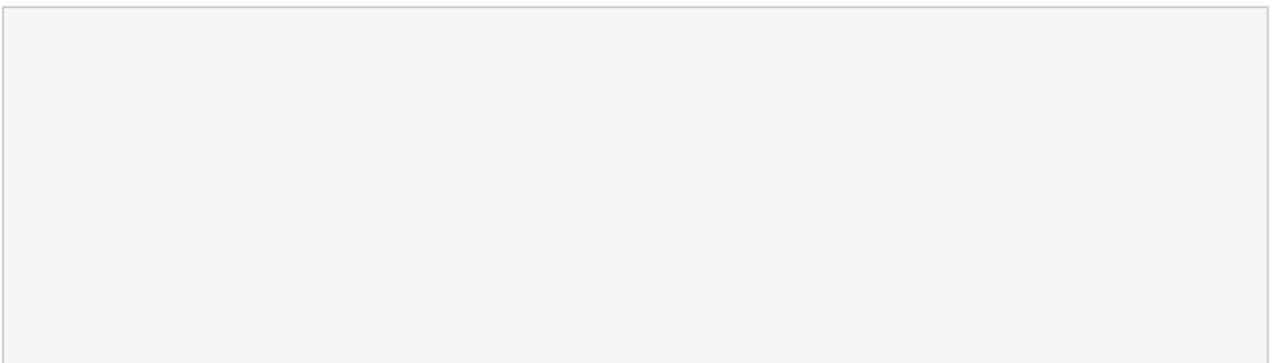
4.3 What are the main changes you would like to see in the EU's development policy framework?



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?

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?

- Migration related priorities should primarily aim at addressing the needs and human rights of all migrants irrespective of their legal status, as well as their dignity and safety throughout the migratory journey, including in countries of origin, transit and destination.
- The EU and its Member States should ensure that migration remains a choice, and that it can take place in safety and with full respect for fundamental rights, in particular through the creation of adequate legal channels for entering the EU. Legal channels for migration including in cases of asylum, family reunification and employment purposes can crystallize the full benefits of migration be it for the migrant, the country of origin and the country of destination.
- The EU should not make development assistance conditional on the capacity and/or willingness of developing countries to collaborate in migration control including through return, readmission and border controls. We observe that the conditionality of development aid with the sole objective of migration control leads to further externalisation of EU migration

controls – a process which has a dire effect on access to support for migrants in particular, as it complicates the delivery of humanitarian services. Safeguards are necessary to monitor the migration compacts the EU intends to conclude with third countries and their implementation and impact on human rights protection in those countries.

- Migration stakeholders such as civil society organizations, migrant and diaspora organizations should be closely involved in defining a migration and development agenda. They should be given the right conditions in which to operate, through adequate legislation and procedures to ensure their freedom of association and organization; RCRC National Societies and other CSO actors should have effective and safe access to all migrants regardless of their status; they should also be consulted during the formulation, implementation and monitoring of legislation. Moreover, EU development funds on migration should include as a priority increasing civil society participation and scrutiny in migration related policies and programmes and supporting their capacity building.

- In its external actions, the EU should promote the implementation of relevant international Human Rights instruments to the highest standard. EU development policy should actively promote universal accession to, and full implementation of, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as respect for the right to leave one's country and for due application of the principle of non-refoulement. Agreements such as mobility partnerships, which often include readmission agreements, should only be signed with countries where human rights particularly those of migrants, are guaranteed and should only be in relation to migrants who are nationals of the signatory countries.

- The EU development cooperation should make references to the Nansen Initiative and the related Protection Agenda. The objective of the Nansen Initiative was to build consensus on key elements and principles to better protect people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. The Nansen Initiative Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change (Protection Agenda) was endorsed by 109 delegations at an intergovernmental global consultation in 2015 . This Protection Agenda presents a comprehensive approach to address disaster displacement. by identifying potential protection measures and other effective practices that States and others can apply in cross-border displacement situations. At the same time, it identifies effective practices to prevent displacement through measures that reduce disaster and displacement risks, enhance the adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthen resilience in countries of origin. The overall focus of the Nansen Initiative was to build consensus at policy level, and not on operational implementation. Based on identified gaps, the Protection Agenda recommended three priority areas for future action: 1) Collecting data and enhancing knowledge; 2) Enhancing the use of humanitarian protection measures, and 3) Strengthening the management of disaster displacement risk in the country of origin. The EU development cooperation should therefore support the future implementation of the Nansen Protection Agenda.

- Resettlement is an act of solidarity with other countries which are hosting large numbers of refugees. It should not be made conditional on promising to stop irregular migration flows, or accepting the return or

readmission of migrants. Resettlement and other humanitarian admission schemes to the EU must be further developed in conjunction with additional safe and legal routes for people to seek protection in the EU including through a simplification of family reunion procedures.

## (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?

Strengthening resilience through an integrated and therefore cross-sectoral approach should be a central component of the new development framework, bringing together basic health care, WASH, livelihood, DRR, CCA and capacity building. Tackling inequality and working inclusively with the most vulnerable is at the heart of the SDG's.

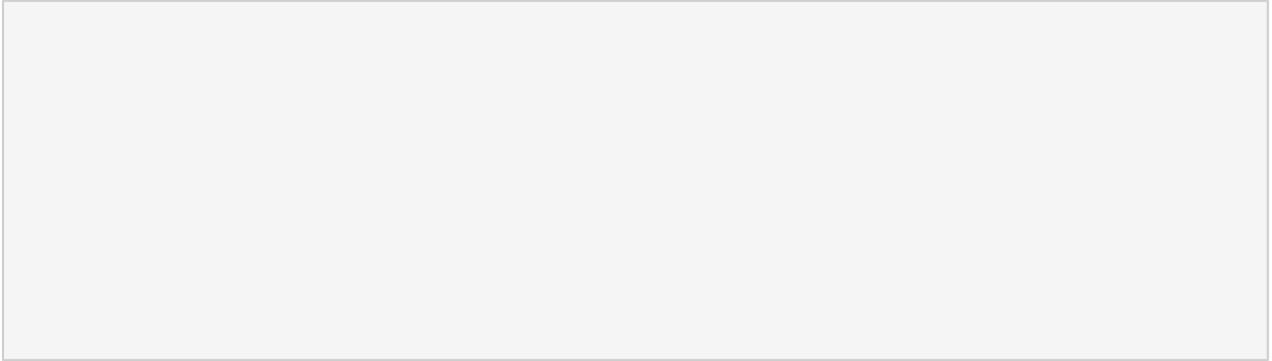
Within its new framework, EU must ensure to support Red Cross and Red Crescent in a) strengthening civil society with an enhanced role in road maps b) support the auxiliaries to the government c) linking national with local level d) ensuring linkages between humanitarian assistance and long term development.

Through its actions and funding and by supporting the creation of an enabling environment, participation and capacity building of civil society as an actor of governance, the EU could definitely contribute to meet the SDG's in an efficient manner. Based on this requisite:

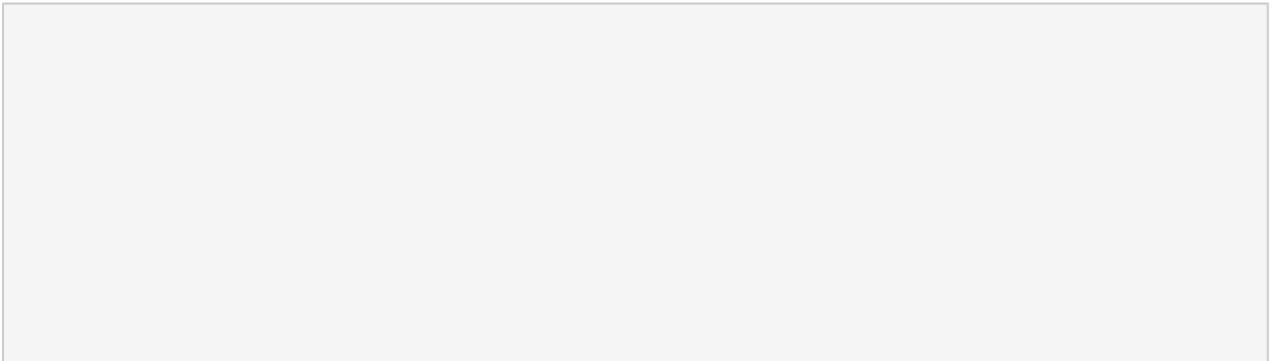
- the Red Cross Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, as civil society actor, will continue building its action on the unique value and contribution of volunteers - including more than 15 million Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers - who are critical resources to enabling access to health services, promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence, and developing local, sustainable solutions and responses in the face of disasters and crises. The voices of volunteers and those in communities in which they work should inform the design and implementation of SDG's, thereby ensuring that goals, targets and indicators relate directly to those whose lives they will transform. Women and young people must be given central attention for their irreplaceable role as sources of information and as enablers and drivers in sustainable development and humanitarian action.
- the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies will use their auxiliary status to bring the voices of the vulnerable people they serve to the attention of their national governments, encouraging the governments to strengthen the resilience of their communities. The central nexus, where the Red Cross/Red Crescent will further engage is the country level EU Roadmaps which should provide a common strategic framework for the engagement of EU Delegations, Member States and national government with civil society (i.e. Red Cross) with a view to improving the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions.
- Building/strengthening community resilience contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development aspirations. Building and strengthening community requires a joined-up approach between humanitarian and development fields to reduce risks from multiple hazards. The Partners for Resilience (PfR) is proving that resilience building when approached through a multi-sectorial lens is reducing risks, strengthening livelihoods and contributing to local economic growth. The PfR Alliance members have combined skills in early warning, preparedness and response to incorporating ecosystem-based approaches and livelihoods interventions to build community resilience. Through the integrated risk management (IRM) approach, the PfR is ensuring that resilience initiatives put communities at the centre of risk analysis, programme planning and implementation; ensures programmes are multi-disciplinary and captures climate, environment and policies to influence development practices while collaborating strongly with local authorities.

In order to ensure development can be sustained domestically, there is a commitment to continuing efforts to strengthen National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies as trusted partners and effective auxiliaries to their governments in humanitarian and development work. Red Cross Red Crescent impact largely depends on the strength of individual National Societies. While international solidarity is crucial in responding to short-term humanitarian, it cannot substitute for legitimate and accountable National Societies carrying out relevant development work.

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EU's partnership with CSOs to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

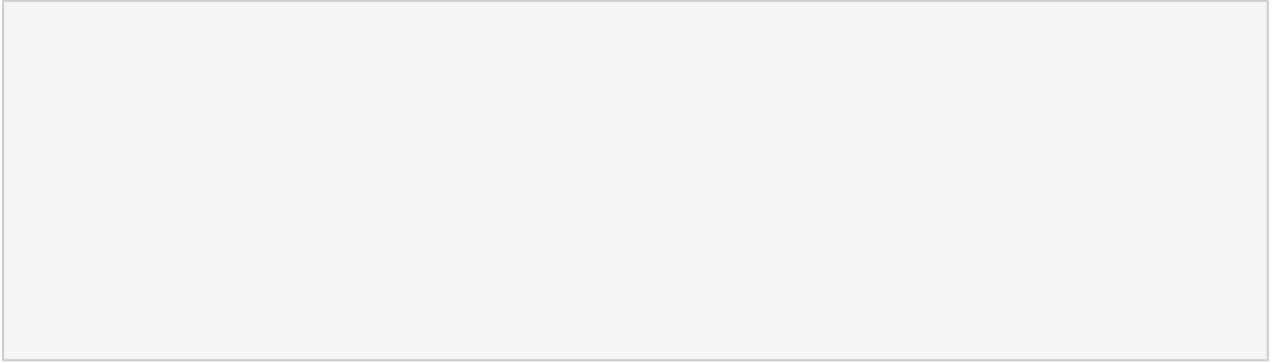
The 2030 Agenda was a shared responsibility and a universal road map. The SDGs address global challenges in an integrated manner and provide a great opportunity for multi-stakeholder approaches to tackle them jointly, moving away from a donor-recipient relationship. The SDGs also promote equality of partners and the EU should strengthen its partnerships, internal processes and mechanisms to allow for equal partnership to develop accordingly. This is also in line with the need for full ownership of the partnership as well as the universal and inclusive nature of Agenda 2030.

Civil Society Organisations (CSO) should always be recognised as an official actor of cooperation and should be recognised in all its forms and diversity. CSO organisations can act as both service providers and governance actors and, as such, must participate in political dialogue at all different levels of the partnership, including in the area of development and trade cooperation. The shrinking space for civil society to act is jeopardising the key role of these actors to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

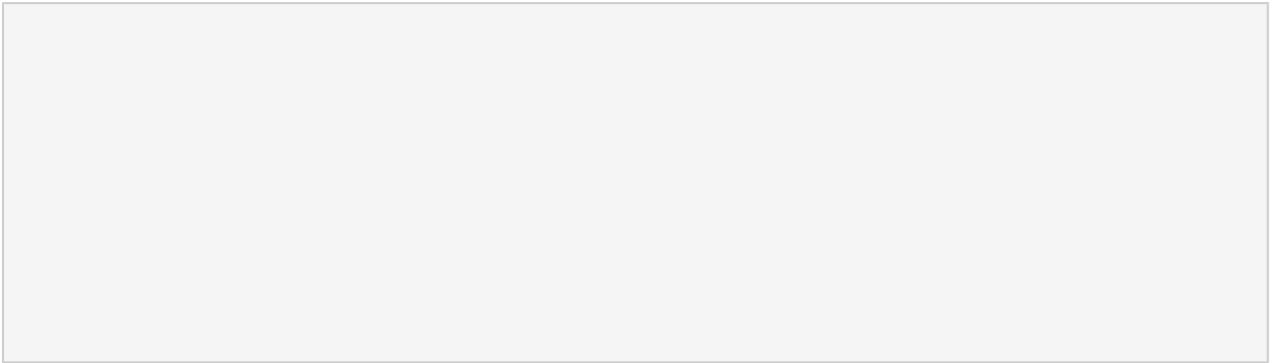
The EU can support in the process of defining specific mechanisms for CSO participation at all levels, leading to CSO cooperation and involvement on an ad hoc basis. Future Agenda 2030-EU developments should therefore continue recognising CSO as a key actor, while also putting into place specific implementation mechanisms and sufficient resources to ensure the effective involvement of CSO in all levels of EU's involvement in the contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. CSOs should be involved at every stage of the process, i.e. designing implementation strategies, governance and accountability mechanisms, reviewing and negotiating budgets, drafting new or revising existing policies, legislative acts, instruments and programmes.

The protection of human rights should be at the core of future EU relations. The respect for human rights, including fundamental social rights, democracy based on the rule of law and transparent and accountable governance, are qualified as an integral part of sustainable development and should thus be integrated by the EU. This includes amongst others the systematic and consistent protection and promotion of human rights at all levels of the political dialogue. Particular attention should thereby be given to marginalised groups, including children and youth, women, persons with disabilities, minorities.

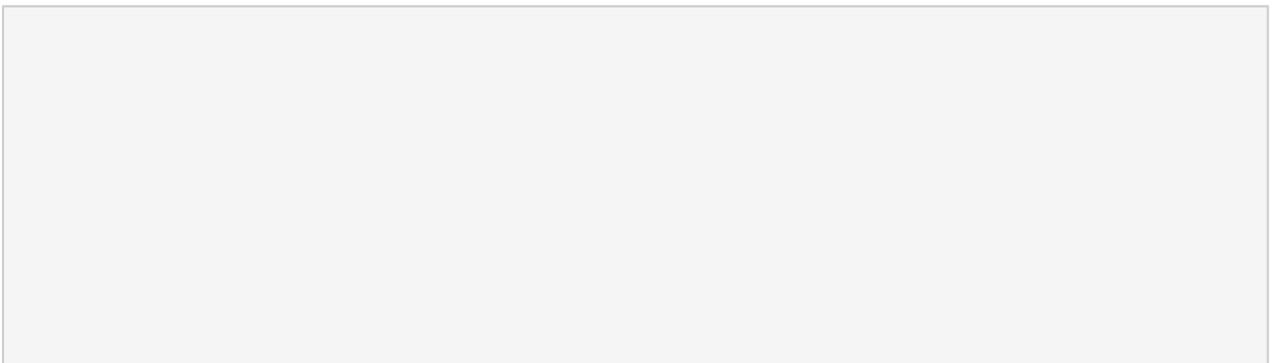
6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?



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?

The EU budget dedicated to development cooperation programming is relatively limited in comparison to other sectors like promoting trade sector. Therefore, the policy coherence of those sectors with the development cooperation policies is key to improve its effectiveness.

The European Union has defined a number of priority areas for development effectiveness in the "EU Common Position for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness". Two of these priorities are:

1. To establish an EU Transparency, guarantee to increase accountability and predictability, strengthen democratic ownership and improve development results.
2. To deepen Public-Private engagement for development impact.

Regarding the transparency, several trends may be observed which may jeopardize the progresses done through the establishment of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI):

1. The trend to limit the use of public open calls for proposals in favour of direct grants or other arbitrary systems to select partners and assign resources. This dynamic forces the different development actors to position themselves through informal dialogues to be selected. In this process, the smaller organizations tend to have less access and chances, independently of their access and capacities at community level.
2. The policy to reduce the number of contracts, in favour of less and much bigger ones. This, again, reduces the chances of smaller organizations to participate.
3. The externalization of the management of EU development grants in other international organizations, seems to be a new trend with the establishment of IMDA and PAGODA schemes. The costs and efficiency of these new schemes should be subject of an independent assessment, but what is clear is that key decisions on EU development grants tend to be taken by

organizations other than the EU Commission.

4. The use of Trust Funds which drains the resources of different Agencies and Financial Instruments with very well defined mandates and goals, to include them under a single instrument that, by definition, has to redraft all those goals and mandates for which the funds were originally allocated.

With regards to the Public-Private engagement,

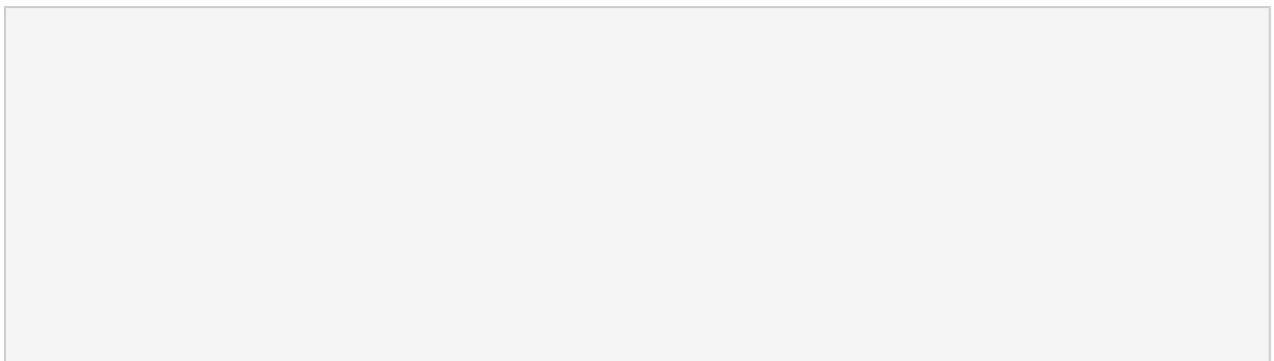
Without questioning the ideology behind the inclusion of this as a priority for development effectiveness, the private enterprises contribute to the development cooperation by properly managing their business, contributing with their taxes avoiding or mitigating their negative external and respecting regulations that reflect the will and interest of the communities in which they operate.

In a globalized and interlinked world, the private sector should be taken into account to define development cooperation policies as much as, for example, NGO for Development should be taken into account to define trade policies.

Private sector is diverse. For instance, the criteria to decide the use of certain technology which may contaminate the environment of a community, but increase the profit, would not be the same in an international corporation or a local community cooperative. Their political influence and investment capacities differ too.

To improve its development cooperation effectiveness, the EU should take this reality into account when applying the cooperation policies set in the European Commission Communication COM(2014)263 and the New EU Communication on the Private Sector, but more importantly, it should compensate the influence capacity that international corporations have in setting those policies in favour of that of local cooperatives.

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?

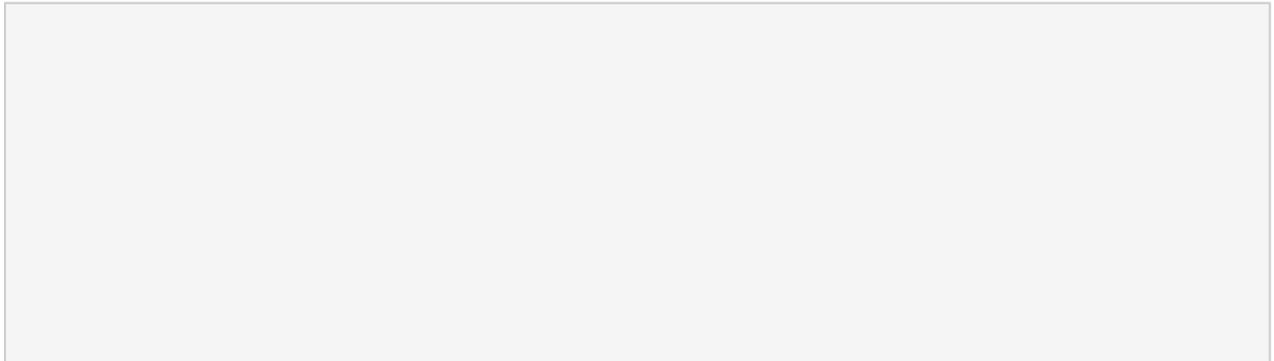


## (7) Keeping track of progress

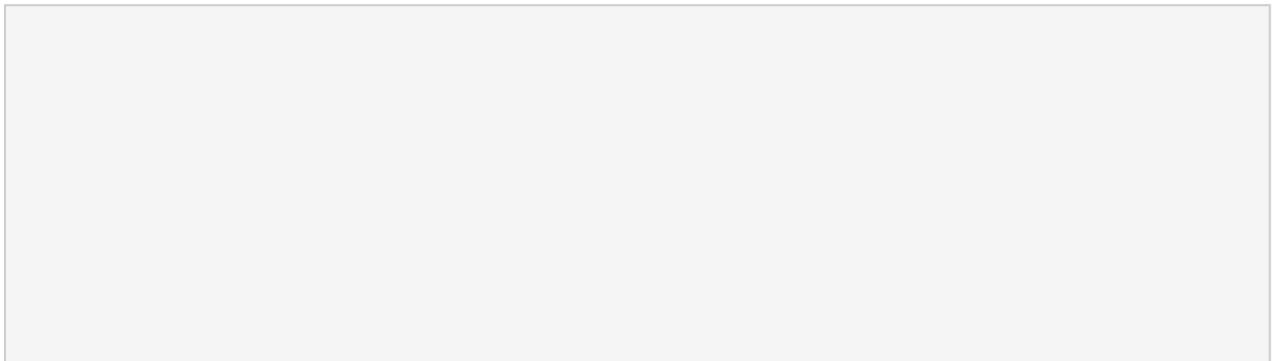
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The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting 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.

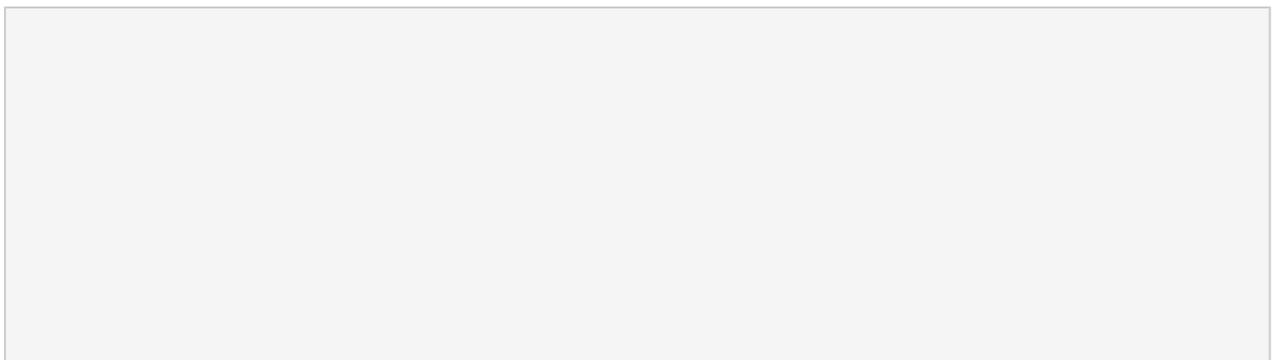
7.1 How can the EU strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis, including in the development field, to feed into its regular review on the Sustainable Development Goals to the UN?



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



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



## Contact

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