

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?

6082564924-85

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

Caritas Europa

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

Caritas Europa – region of Caritas Internationalis; Belgian asbl

* 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

Belgium

(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?

Although when going into concrete policies it is important to prioritize, in this case it would not be healthy to stratify key global trends, but to assure PCSD. As from new SDGs framework we know that Sustainable Development entails at least the social, economic and environmental dimension and one cannot go without the other.

In Caritas, we consider fundamental to think about what impact the most vulnerable, first. The poorest of the world, in all societies, are impacted by increased social and economic inequalities and consequent lack of opportunities, leading to higher risks of conflicts. Also, they are definitely the ones most severely impacted by climate change. The Agenda 2030 commit to participation of everyone, which is one of the keys for sustainable development.

3.2 How should EU policies, and development policy in particular, better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trend you identified in the previous question?

EU development policy should keep its core mandate to create sustainable development and eradicate poverty sustainably in Low Development Countries (LDCs). This is key to achieve SDGs and this is because SDGs are universal and they concern at different extent Europe and the rest of the world. As a consequence, every other DG leading by PCSD should consider to have a SDGs focal point/task force to consider how and if internal policies are pursuing SDGs and settled European targets. If this is done in a coherent way, it will foster opportunities and minimize present negative aspects.

In general, EU policies should rethink to the general imposed model for development and growth. A paradigm shift towards the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns, both for people and the planet, needs to be strongly fostered and promoted. Leading by a human rights based approach, which includes participation of the target groups, EU should also focus on decreasing inequalities within and between countries. All recent problems on global scale based on the greed / avarice of individuals and groups on power.

(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?

All specified challenges need to go hand in hand and it is of utmost important to pursue a holistic approach which considers all aspects and dimensions of sustainable development.

Although being a further effort, it is important that all actors keep their specificities in different areas but with a new attention to consequences of sectorial policies. The “in silo” thinking needs to be avoided.

In 2015 at least 3 global processes were finalized: the Addis Ababa agenda, the SDGs and Paris agreement. The outcome of all of them it is not perfect but it gives a sustainable global vision for the present and the immediate future of our world.

According to Caritas, sustainable development entails at least another dimension on top of social, environmental and economic. This is the “human” dimension. Human beings should be always at the centre of different interventions and the respect of their dignity and rights are fundamental in order to achieve all goals (human-right based approach).

In the Commission all DGs should have a task force/a unit dedicated to global processes, to Political Coherence for Sustainable Development [PCSD].. When approving new policies in all areas coherence with development policies should be assessed. In case of clashes or concerns, they should be corrected and fine-tuned accordingly.

In future, EU domestic and international policies and projects, e.g. development projects abroad, should also require climate assessments that look at impacts and risks and explain how these will be mitigated but also how policies and projects will contribute better climate adaptation and resilience in line with the Paris Agreement.

Climate policies coming from National Determined Contributions (NDCs) must be linked with SDGs and targets. The International Council For Science have identified that at least 50 targets are climate-relevant. The implementation of Agenda 2030 must be an integrated element of how the EU develops and implements their domestic NDC. In addition, when it comes to international cooperation, the EU must promote policies that facilitate an integrated approach of both the Paris climate Agreement and Agenda 2030 in countries in the global South. This should include activities for policy coherence, coordination and multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure adequate participatory and accountability mechanisms are put in place. These shall include civil society and faith groups.

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?

These three dimensions can go hand in hand if the dimension of governance is taken into consideration.

Development policy should not be the one where to focus on in order to achieve this. It is just one piece of the puzzle. EU development policy needs to keep its coherence and put people experiencing poverty at the core of its actions either from an economic, environmentally and social point of view.

One part cannot go without the other.

The same goes for all other internal and external EU policies.

Recent terror attacks have led to the increasingly security-oriented discussions. It is necessary to connect development policy to issues of stability, democracy and security in the EU foreign policy model (cf. combating the causes of forced migration).

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

In 2015 several aspects concerning development have been affirmed and re-affirmed as never before. Given their entrance not only in the narrative but also in the structure and in the concreteness of activities they need to find a space also in the new EU development policy framework.

For this reason new EU development policy framework should include:

- the idea principles of universality and the principle of common but shared responsibilities which is are well stated both in the Agenda 2030 and in the Paris agreement;
- the principle to leave no one behind when pursuing diverse aspects of development as this is one of the core transformational shifts in the SDGs
- an integrated approach to development so that there is a balance of all three dimensions of sustainability: economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection at all levels
- the principle of participation ensuring that those most marginalized and excluded are part of the design, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and other relevant outcomes from EU development policies
- a transformative narrative on sustainable production and consumption, not only for individuals but also for public bodies and entities. In our opinion, a special focus on the Right to Food and trade are still needed;
- when space is given to the private sector as an actor for development, the framework should consider different aspects of private sector that may contradict the development effort. In particular, also the private sector should act responding to the imperative of sustainable development, including capacity building for beneficiaries and ownership of local communities. The private sector should put the dignity of beneficiaries at the centre of their activities, together with the other three dimensions of sustainability. Before settling down new projects, it is fundamental and non-negotiable to get in touch with local communities, so that to avoid phenomena like land grabbing.
- concrete assessment of UN Paris agreement: the outcome of Paris agreement should be well included in the framework. In particular: <http://www.caritas.eu/news/paris-climate-agreement-time-to-move-from-promises-to-action>
- objectives should be to decrease inequalities within and between countries and protect the commons is essential for sustainable societies.
- regarding financial aspects, the aspect of satellite accounts to consider the non economic aspects of development initiatives should be introduced on all levels.

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?

When talking globally and looking for synergies among external policies, an accent should be given to elements which are threatening the effectiveness of development policies. These are, for sure: peace, good governance and democracy, respect for human rights, equality between men and women. Inclusiveness is also a key area and Caritas advocates to give a voice to people experiencing poverty and the most vulnerable, especially, women, children and poor families. Nevertheless, this list is not exhaustive at all and the peculiar and worrying times we are going through demand EU policies to be more attentive also to issues like non-discrimination.

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)?

Concerning geographic areas it is good that Europe is fostering its attention to the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa. This continent is a strategic partner for Europe and it is worthy to invest in people there. Policy areas:

- right to food, WASH, agriculture and trade;
- capacity building and education
- to develop stability, democracy and security in these 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?

For Caritas Europa, the crucial aspect in approaches and policies etc. addressing inequalities is participation of the people affected. The Caritas bottom up approach of seeing-judging-acting starts from seeing the needs of people affected and listening to them. This picture of reality and the solutions they see for the problems/challenges is the basis for all work (service provision, awareness raising, advocacy etc) to contribute to finding adequate policy responses while ensuring the participation of the people concerned during the whole process. Inequalities should be tackled in terms of access to services (social, counselling, health care, education, housing etc) and access to income (employment /labour market or guaranteed minimum income). This includes safeguards to access to services and income, but also awareness among all members of society that unequal treatment on basis of sex, ethnic origin, age, etc. cannot be tolerated or justified in order to change attitude towards “others” in society (e.g; stereotyping etc). About inequalities in Europe, read more on: <http://caritascares.eu/>

Environmental inequalities and, namely, the right to land and to food, should also be mainstreamed.

In general, rising inequalities within and between countries and people need to be faced and managed in a proper comprehensive and political way.

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?

Development policy should consider governance, democracy and the rule of law in its processes.

Human rights based approach (HRBA) should be a precondition for all development policies and the same goes for humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, indivisibility and universality.

Also, the European Union should make additional efforts to make sure that its policies are not consolidating or colluding with undemocratic powers. All possible efforts should be done in order to collaborate with national and local governments. It is fundamental that under no conditions the most vulnerable people and communities shall be abandoned by European aid because of deficiencies in local governance. The most vulnerable people are normally the less visible but still they need to be at the core of EU development policy. The role of women should be recognized as resilience builders and community leaders.

In case of risks, the EU should make sure that CSOs can keep their role of peace builders and actors for reconciliation and conflict prevention.

Together with that, the European Union should invest in conflict prevention and preparedness, both politically and financially. This can be done by different means, starting from a more accurate monitoring of the impact European corporates might have in fragile areas and passing through more restrictive business in arms exports.

Last but not least, in order to tackle root causes of conflicts, the EU needs to seriously address its own footprint on natural resources, a resource whose increasing scarcity is contributing to fuel conflicts. It also needs to shift much of its efforts on tackling inequality.

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?

European Development policy should focus first and foremost on the sustainable eradication of poverty in countries outside Europe. This core mandate should be kept as a milestone when thinking about future Consensus on Development, as well.

If EU international development policies are framed consistently and coherently with human, fair and effective EU policies on migration (as per Caritas Europa Migration Report) there is no need to adopt further measures within EU the Consensus.

Instead of talking about irregular migration, Caritas Europa insists that it is far fairer to talk about forced migration, and it is as such that it should be approached.

Also, Caritas Europa wants to underline that at the moment there is a good bunch of “myths” concerning the link between migration and development. These myths need to be taken into consideration in order to frame effective and non- ambiguous strategies.

All this said, root causes of forced migration are different and they stand within insecurity and lack of opportunities. Peace, security, the respect of human rights, the right to food and to land, education, access to health, water and sanitation, social rights are some of the preconditions for giving an enabling environment for giving people the right to stay.

(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?

In recent years different possibilities for mobilising resources for development have been taken into considerations. They have been precisely examined during FfD conference in Addis in 2015 and it is clear that the private sector is going to be a key sector responding to this. This is widely recognized and accepted and it is a positive sign of the times responding to the lack of capacities for governments. The latter, though, need to keep and increase its role, as foreseen by regional and international commitments. When "on stage", private companies' core business operations should support and do not undermine sustainable development. In this sense, the EU and its Member States have to adopt and enforce balanced laws so that businesses are accountable to citizens and beneficiary communities.

Moreover, we think it is important to focus on key areas when considering and including private sector work in development:

- human rights responsibilities of businesses;
- the respect of workers' rights in global supply chains. This is meant to reduce discrimination and allow them to negotiate better wages;
- transparency and accountability.

The coordination between private and public finance should under any circumstances undermine debt in partner countries and, on the other side it should respect the principle of development effectiveness and avoid double financing. The respect of environment and environmental law also needs to be granted.

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?

Council Conclusions on May 2015 clearly recall to the duty for EU Member States to invest 0.7% of GDP (0.33% for EU13) in ODA. At the moment most of interested Countries are still far from meeting this goal and therefore this is the first element to take into consideration when talking about EU Commitments.

For being strategic in setting priorities, the European Union should focus on Middle East, Northern Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa as regions. This is mainly because of the natural partnership with these Regions and because of the high concentration of LDCs in there, fragile and forgotten areas in there. Also, political instability or undemocratic settings in those areas deserve specific attention and investments for DRR, preparedness and resilience.

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

(on this, Caritas Europa shares the vision expressed by CONCORD, of which Caritas Europa is part)

Corporate tax avoidance is a major challenge to domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries, which thereby lose an estimated USD 200bn every year.

To effectively tackle this problem, the EU must first of all ensure that the European and Member States' national tax legislation does not produce negative spill over effects on third countries. The EU must undertake an extensive spill over analysis of EU and Member States' taxation policies and improve regulations in relation to tax transparency (incl. introducing public Country-by-Country Reporting for all large multinational companies) as well as anti-BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Sharing) measures (including strong national Controlled Foreign Company Rules and Interest Limitations Rules). EU Member States must revise and renegotiate bilateral tax treaties with developing countries which unfairly limit developing countries' rights to collect tax. The EU must also actively support the creation of an intergovernmental tax body under the auspices of the UN in order to ensure fully inclusive and equitable governance in the area of international tax standard setting. Technical cooperation programmes supporting developing countries' tax administrations capacity, financed by the EU and the Member States must comply with the highest standards of aid and development effectiveness.

There is a need to simplify regulations currently preventing small-scale entrepreneurs to register in the formal economy, to provide incentives and opportunities for moving from insecure livelihoods in the informal economy to decent work in the formal economy, contributing to domestic resource mobilization.

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

Middle income countries should not be excluded from development policies. This has to be recalled and it should not be taken for granted. Vulnerable and poor people live everywhere and it is sadly true to notice that MICs are often the most evidently exposed to the rising of dramatic inequalities. Also, middle income countries are very different one from the other, therefore it might be important to have different strategies according to specific situations.

CSOs having having a history in specific countries and contexts need to be supported according to needs.

National governments in MICs also might need accompaniment when drafting policies aimed in reducing inequalities and internal situations of vulnerability.

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?

Key areas analyzed in PCD 2015 EU report are fundamental to achieve sustainable development according to Agenda 2030. In order to do that, the European Union should foster the effort started at the beginning of last year, where representatives from different DGs were invited in order to discuss about Policy Coherence for Development. This effort should be systematized and it should become the “business as usual” when drafting internal and external policies that might impact development policies. Concerning regional, national and local policies in developing countries, coherence should be shown after an assessment of internal and international policies and possible impacts they could have outside the considered setting. In general, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is embedded in Agenda 2030. This is because the 17 goals are very much interlinked and because of the universal character of the agenda. Goals need to be achieved both within and outside Europe; therefore it is clearly fundamental that one policy does not impact negatively the other. Basically, Agenda 2030 brings PCSD to higher political level, going well beyond art. 208 of the Lisbon Treaty. Impact assessments should be done regularly, also thanks to external evaluation and by including clear criteria that might help awareness rising on PCSD.

This should help in creating shared agendas among European and national policies. Also, it should help mitigating incoherencies where these are unavoidable or when they are inherited from long lasting situations. Civil society and impacted people and communities should be consulted at all stages of monitoring and evaluation, both ex ante and ex post. European institutions should deliver regular impact assessments on PCSD. The agendas of the European Council, the European Parliament and the Commission should be harmonized on that.

(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?

Civil society: participation of civil society is key in the implementation of Agenda 2030. Dialogue with civil society needs to be transparent and inclusive and appropriate space should be granted for that both in EU MS, among EU institutions and in partner countries. The shrinking space for civil society might lead to the deteriorating of understanding from the side of public governance and this might threaten very much fragile societies. Partnership with civil society needs to be enhanced through open space and regular meetings during the drafting of policies and during their implementation.

When supporting countries to develop national implementation strategies relevant to sustainable development, the EU should stress the need for multi-stakeholder platforms to be established or strengthened. These should secure adequate participation of civil society and faith groups that represent communities living in poverty and marginalization. It is important that participatory mechanisms are representative to the local contexts and that those most marginalized have the tools to make their voice heard. This also includes operationalizing the principle of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind.

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

The EU should promote a private sector policy work asking companies to take action to ensure that their core business operations support and do not undermine sustainable development. Also, the EU should allow MS to adopt and reinforce balanced laws, so that businesses are accountable to citizens.

Key areas for private sector investments should include:

- looking at the human rights responsibilities of businesses as part of the ongoing UN process;
- supporting workers' rights in global supply chains to reduce discrimination and allow them to negotiate better wages;
- concretely promoting transparency and accountability in extractive industry contracts and payments to governments;
- examining the impact of mining in developing countries where our partner organisations work.

Sustainability should always be mainstreamed when involving private sector and this has to be meant for all sizes of enterprises and/or companies. As largely stated we consider of utmost importance the respect of land rights and the EU should do everything possible to champion the application of UN VGGT (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure)

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

The EU should engage more and more proactively, with a unanimous voice, with all interested stakeholders on sustainable development internationally. In fact, the international setting concerning development has been changing a lot in the last ten years. This should be underlined in the new Consensus. This does not mean everything needs to start as new but, on the contrary, it would be important to keep track of positive results achieved in the past and build up more inclusive processes including new actors. The awareness of living in a completely interrelated world warn us about the fact that – although requiring new efforts – it is of utmost importance to stop working in silo.

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

This should be done by promoting a participatory and transparent approach also for partner countries. This means a continuous inclusive and effective dialogue with civil society, a specific pro-active attention to the most vulnerable and excluded and a concrete translation of lessons learnt into effective policies. If all this happens it is realistic to think that national priorities in partner countries become also international and European priorities for external aid.

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?

Joint strategies from the EU and its Member States should be followed by coherent actions on the field in partner countries. This exercise should build up on existing sectoral policies (e.g. the EU Food Security action plan) that should bring to co-ordinated and coherently monitored and evaluated actions on the field. Transparency, participation and dialogue should be at the core of all actions between the EU and partner countries. EU Member States are necessarily on the same line.

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

Coherence among policies is a fundamental step to achieve effectiveness. Of course it is not only a matter of development policy but all external EU policies should be coherent with development policies, as stated in art. 208 of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Together with this, the effectiveness agenda entails all principles and elements to guarantee an appropriate implementation of the agenda.

Also, as per CONCORD contribution:

"How aid is delivered, and the policies and practices of donor governments, can have a huge influence on

what they achieve. For example, they determine how poor people are included - or excluded - from decisions about priorities and resource allocation that affect their lives. Moreover, development efforts can only be effective if they can be coordinated and brought under the umbrella of development strategies designed and owned by the people in developing countries. In order to do so, it is necessary to share information about the goals, beneficiaries and target sector so that different projects can be coordinated and no one is left behind. It is also important to make all this information publicly available in order to enable mutual accountability. Therefore EU should not diminish its efforts to implement the internationally agreed effectiveness frameworks".

The EU should also acknowledge efforts done by CSOs when creating the dialogue between Northern and Southern countries and communities. For instance, Caritas participated last July 2016 at the UN meeting on Agenda 2030. In there, European Caritas supported the participation and the inclusion of Caritas organizations from partner countries. This has been considered as very positive since it created awareness among communities and people coming from Regions when the government does not necessarily inform about Agenda 2030. In this sense, the international arena is a mean for creating effectiveness. Agenda 2030 is also an instrument, instead than a framework of goals itself, since it allows to improve a mind set and change perspectives where it would otherwise be very difficult to do so.

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?

Supporting CONCORD's point of view:

EU institutions are failing to implement joint programming in a way that it leads to greater harmonisation of development efforts in partner countries. Progress has been made in some areas, such as by developing a single strategy for partner countries throughout the EU, identifying priority sectors and agreeing on some division of labour among the Member States. However the efforts now should be focused on joint modalities for delivering aid, delegated cooperation, or monitoring and evaluating mechanisms.

One of the most essential parts of EU joint-up actions is the Civil Society Roadmaps process. EU Joint Programming should have much greater focus on protecting space for civil society as crucial component of democratic system and underpinning sustainable development. Civil society should be considered important partners in Joint Programming, in order to ensure that the most marginalised will also be reached and that no one is left behind.

Space for Civil Society and local communities is strongly supported by Caritas Europa, where we believe in a bottom-up approach. Also, we are aware about the fact that there is no 'one model fits all' but that joint programming should still consider features of different contexts and cultures.

(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?

European Union should provide regular assessment on SDGs to the UN through at least 2 different channels:

- impact assessment of European policies (PCSD should also be evaluated in this case, see above);
- the monitoring of National implementation plans from EU MS.

In both case different indicators should be used, according to Agenda 2030 and National implementation plans. The analysis needs to be the result of a participatory, transparent and inclusive monitoring and evaluation and it has to be delivered timely and according to the timeframe conceived for the achievement of different goals and targets.

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

Caritas Europa supports entirely what CONCORD expresses on this:

The EU should make effective use of its research agencies across the whole range of SDG areas (for example, European environment agency, European Institute for Gender Equality, etc.) as well as the policy relevant research generated through programmes such as Horizon 2020. EU evaluations of funding instruments and programmes and reports and studies on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development should inform assessments and reviews but research, assessments and analysis from others, including civil society, should also be invited and taken into account. For the EU it is critical to ensure that the leave no one behind principle is reviewed both in Europe and in development cooperation. This requires collecting disaggregated data on marginalised and vulnerable groups, and reviewing how those have been reached. Shortcomings in leaving no one behind are easily hidden behind aggregated data. Moreover, the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators can be used as a source to adequately monitor the achievement of the SDGs, taking into account its main principle of data disaggregation: "Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics".

A key accountability tool, as mentioned before, will be the ex-post impact assessments (of PCSD) to verify that no EU policy is undermining people's human rights and sustainable development pathway, or poorer countries' abilities to realise their people's human rights within planetary boundaries. The EU should continue to report regularly on PCSD, and improve the quality of its reporting by relating it to the whole 2030 Agenda, and by examining whether the linkages, or interdependencies, between sectors have been respected. Specific attention must be paid to how a target is reached, not just whether it is reached, since any action should not simultaneously set progress back in another area. The reports should include policy changes in order to show how Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development has actually improved from previous situations.

The EU should also use the evidence and analysis that emerge from monitoring various action plans and policies, such as the Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy the Gender Action Plan, and the Food Security Policy Framework to feed in to its regular review. Specific gender transformative criteria must be applied to ensure that the gaps are being closed between girls and women and boys and men. In development cooperation the EU should continue to move away from monitoring mainly on spending, to generating evidence and analysis on impact towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of 2030 Agenda. The EU should be careful in making sure that this does not entail funding only programmes and interventions which are likely to produce tangible and visible results in the short term. Longer-term impacts on reducing poverty and closing the gap on inequalities should remain priority. Clearly, if the evidence demonstrates that some areas are being overlooked, or certain groups of people are being left behind, the EU should use the review to examine the main obstacles to greater progress and to suggest how it will improve its policy and action going forward.

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

As above:

"Partner countries are expected to adjust the global indicators set to their national contexts and adopt a complementary set of national indicators. The national indicators sets should be adopted respecting the key principles of Agenda 2030, especially ensuring that no one is left behind. The EU should support capacity development in its partner countries in this respect. This should entail that national statistics authorities have the required capacity to collect and analyse disaggregated data (including by sex and age) with a focus on the most marginalised. The EU should also support sectoral management information systems to the same end. Support to information system should be an essential element in EU's bilateral programmes in order to monitor

effectiveness and progress in closing the gaps in equality between people and countries. In addition, given the crucial role, that civil society should be playing -as widely acknowledged-, the EU should include capacity building of civil society for the monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation into its funding strategies.

The EU should also support peer-learning exercises and initiatives, which aim to disseminate information on impact and cost-effectiveness of various programmes and approaches. Ongoing efforts for example from Scaling-up Nutrition and the Networked Information System for Nutrition should be closely scrutinised to this end.

The EU should support partner countries in national reporting to the High-Level Political Forum. The EU and its Member States have to show leadership in this respect by presenting transparent, self-critical and credible reports to the HLPF reflecting how they have succeeded in following the key principles and commitments to the Means of Implementation of Agenda 2030. The reporting and review framework of Agenda 2030 will only work if all countries, including the EU, take it seriously."

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