

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?

56502415122-32

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

CSR Europe- The European Business Network for Corporate Social Responsibility

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

European Business Network

* 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

Brussels

(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.

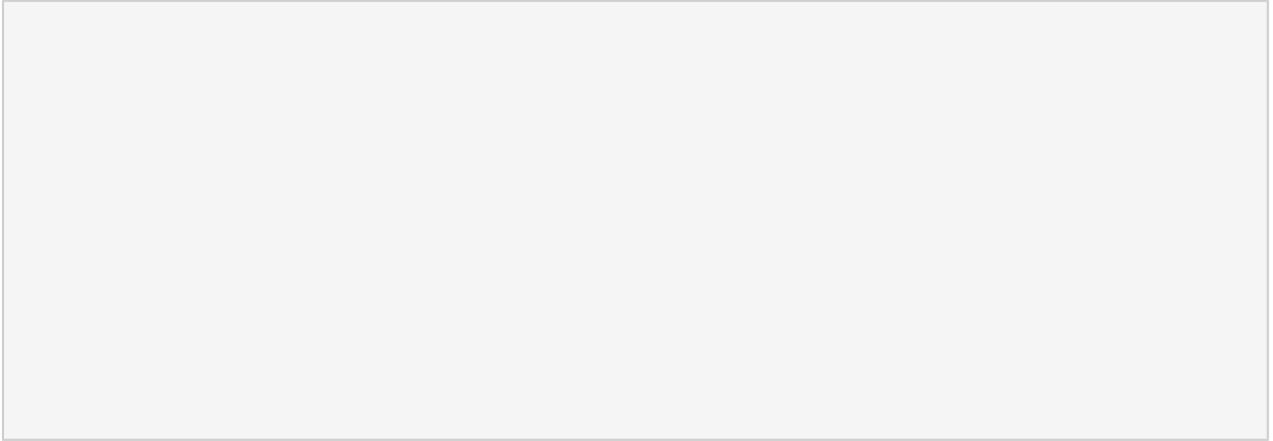
The global landscape has changed significantly compared to the time of adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. While much has been achieved, with more than one billion people having been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, great challenges remain and new ones are emerging. At global level,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

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

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?

Proposal 1: Sustainability as a driver for growth: a new narrative for the EU. A foundational step for the EU to do is outlined in the Commission's Work Programme for 2016, which committed the Commission to take an initiative on "Next steps for a Sustainable European future". Such document will have the purpose of explaining how the EU's internal and external policies contribute to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative offers a unique opportunity for starting to create a new narrative for the EU, which is coherent with the EU priorities and integrates also the links between poverty eradication and the pursuit of sustainability in all its forms. Only through an integrated approach to the implementation of the international agreements, engaging also with business and stakeholders, the EU can prepare Europe 2030 both with regard to its strategy on jobs, growth and competitiveness as well as its contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a business driven organization, that continuously engage with all stakeholders in society, we propose that the motto of any new EU narrative and the Europe 2030 agenda should be 'sustainability as a driver for growth'. For this to happen, the EU should collaborate with the private sector as an equal partner as well as consult businesses in a consistent manner.

Proposal 2: use EU trade agreements as a catalyst to engage directly with private sector and stakeholders.

EU institutions and in particular the EU Commission should build upon and magnify the role of companies which act as enablers of sustainable development outside the EU. More and more overseas activities of responsible businesses can make a contribution to regional, economic and political stability, as well as the expansion of infrastructure and the strengthening of the local employment market. This positive effect can be heightened further by influencing the value chains.

To do so, a practical proposal is the creation in every trade agreement of an impact assessment that can both identify the need for complementary CSR /Sustainable Development (SD) measures and evaluate the net impact of the new trade agreement to one or more of the SDGs. We suggest that the chapters on sustainable development/CSR currently included in trade agreements should form the basis of at least one practical improvement project by country per year (e.g. building a local supplier network for a sector; make a specific dialogue with different sector on a common issue like working time;) that advances the sustainability agenda in the trade between the EU and the country. Such an action would allow going beyond the annual 'committee follow up' and could motivate actors to ACT.

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?

Proposal 1: Policy coherence and a balanced approach towards compliancy and innovation.

The EU should break the internal silos and horizontally cooperate between institutions and within institutions to better align and give consistency to the internal and external policies. Policy coherence at the national, European and international level will be a key factor for an efficient and effective implementation of the Agenda 2030. This is true for internal as well as external aspects. A unique selling point of the EU is to build an umbrella strategy to (1) leverage on the national strategies on CSR, SD and SGDs and (2) help to cross-fertilise and accelerate the wealth of innovative business models, products and services contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda. One way to ensure stronger coherence is, for instance, to mainstream across all EU initiatives the request on beneficiaries to report publicly on how their projects directly contribute to one or more of the SDGs.

Moreover, we also ask for a more balanced approach that favors as much compliance and innovation. While the role of the EU is critical in ensuring better compliance with economic, social and environmental rules and expectations, it should have a much more open attitude towards inclusive and sustainable innovation harnessing the scientific, technological and innovation know-how from the business sector and stakeholders that are co-developing solutions addressing the most urgent societal challenges.

Proposal 2: An EU 2030 SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Forum.

A more balanced and integrated approach between development and other areas of EU policies (such as trade, investment, employment, non-financial information and tax) should be pursued through a closer cooperation among, for instance, DG TRADE, DEVCO, EEAS, FISMA, EMPL and GROW. These DGs should agree on the development of a European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the 2030 SDGs Agenda. The Commission should mainly act as a neutral host while the main stakeholder families (business, NGOs, investors, social partners, governments, academia and media) should co-own the steering of the agenda including measurable targets. This forum should be a main contributor to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The EU 2030 SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Forum can be built on the learnings of the Multi Stakeholder Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), created by the European Commission in 2002. This Forum, which gathered the main European actors, together with EU governments and international institutions, operated productively until 2014 on the basis of some "golden rules" and a steering committee driven by the principle of shared responsibility. A major result of this Forum has been the adoption of the EU Directive on Non-Financial Information, whereby the EU with its stakeholders made a clear choice for a sustainable business model that creates a shared value and a positive impact on society.

Proposal 3: Building common intelligence for sustainable solutions.

Building upon the EU directive on Non-Financial Reporting as well as other transparency initiatives, another proposal is to develop a more structured dialogue with the private sector in the form of several Stakeholder Dialogues, engaging representatives from the EU institutions and various Commission Directorate-Generals, business, investors and civil society. These Stakeholder Dialogues should use as one of their primary sources the non-financial/sustainability information of the corporate's annual/integrated /sustainable reports that will be published as from 2018. In addition, they should have either a thematic focus (e.g. due diligence and sustainable supply chain, human rights, bribery and corruption, etc.) or a sectorial /geographical scope.

Such Stakeholder Dialogues should focus on what works and what does not work in developing countries. They should aim at: (1) helping both companies and other participants to build a common understanding of shared responsibilities to address complex challenges; (2) helping companies to develop creative partnerships for business models, products and services oriented to low- and middle-income markets.

In addition, there are two other important outcomes: (1) to equip the investor community with a better understanding of their critical role in supporting middle- and long-term investments in companies that are integrating consumers', environmental, economic and human rights concerns into business strategies and practices; (2) for the EU institutions to better connect with the local environments, realities and actors in order to help them adopt macro-policies and initiatives in a more coherent way.

To be more effective and efficient such Stakeholder Dialogues should be co-hosted by EC delegations in cooperation with some national development agencies.

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

As a European Business Network for CSR, before anything else we would like to refer to the EC Communication (COM(2014)263) “A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries” of May 2014. This Communication and its proposed actions were the results of many years of research, dialogues and sharing.

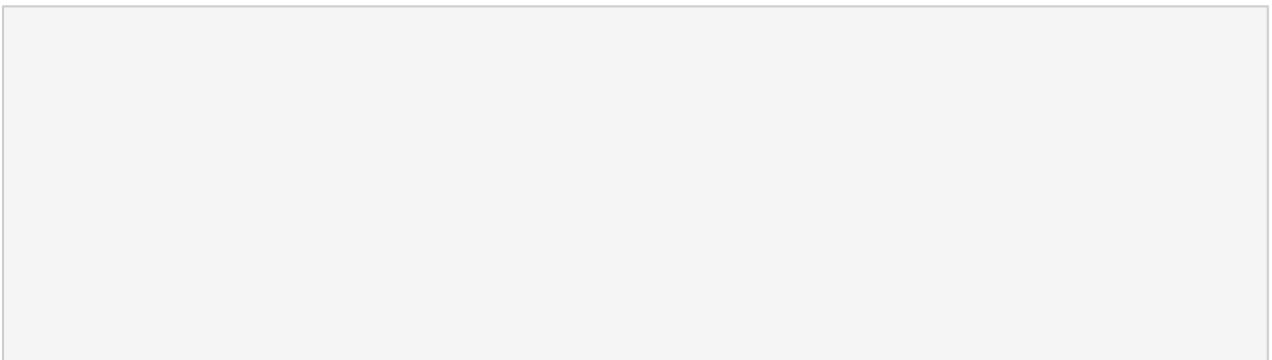
We suggest that Actions 10 and 11 are the perfect foundations to further discuss how to secure their implementation, avoiding that the EU goes on and on with new researches and dialogues that would reveal much of the same.

We would like to encourage the European Commission, following the example of a number of national development agencies, to dare to adopt a mindset that would allow the EU to engage with the private sector with a balanced approach of cautiousness (companies have to comply with international norms and principles) and co-creativity (tapping into the social innovation created by the business sector operating in low- and middle-income markets). For more details, see also our reply to question 5.1, proposal 2 (a European Hub 2030 on Inclusive Business Models and Innovation).

Lastly, we believe that there is a need for greater policy coherence and EU support to strengthen the following key activities:

1. Local capacity building for suppliers
2. Creation of local sustainable development networks
3. Sectoral and cross-sectoral collaboration

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?



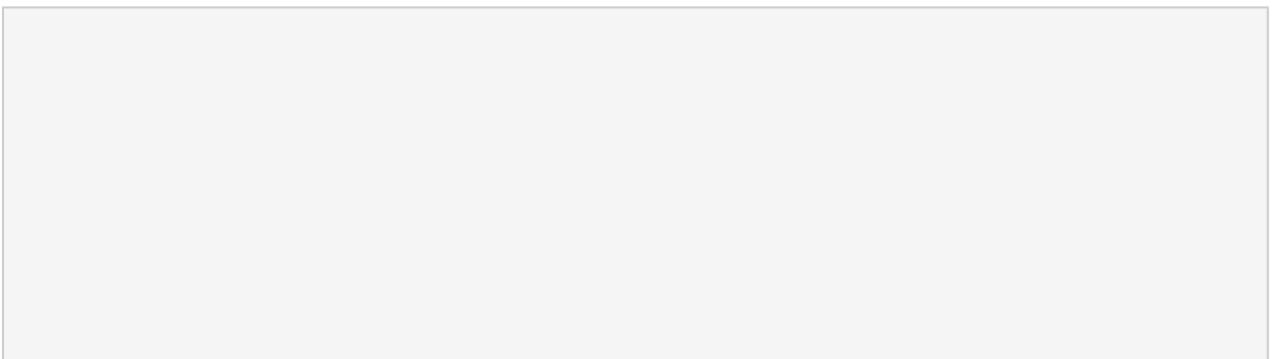
4.5 In which areas does the EU have greatest value-added as a development partner (e.g. which aspects of its development policy, dialogue or implementation arrangements or in which category of countries)?

One of the European Union's most valuable contributions to solving global development challenges is its strategic dedication addressing the issue of poverty in countries affected by conflict and natural disaster, while at the same time maintaining its long-standing support to "graduating" larger countries, which have steadily experienced economic recovery.

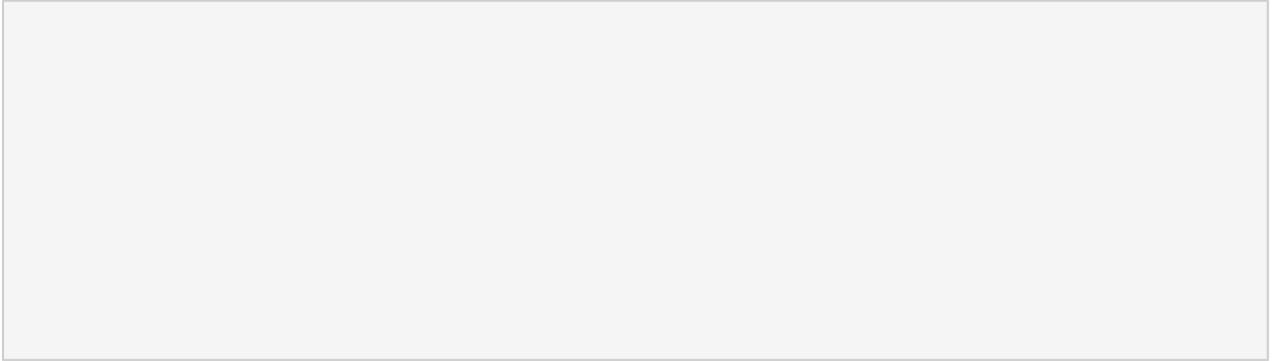
Therefore, the EU should seek to partner with a donor state, which balances its leadership on innovation and R&D with a strong dedication and policies towards fulfilling the UN 2030 Agenda. One example could be South Korea. As new development donor and recent member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), South Korea is reforming and scaling up its development assistance and establishing cooperation initiatives with traditional donors, including some EU member states. In this context, cooperation on international development appears to be a promising issue for the future agenda of the Korea-EU partnership.

Moreover, to increase its added value as development partner, the EU could also evaluate the possibility of developing a closer collaboration with other major donors, such as China, which is giving strong signals for promoting CSR outside its borders and especially in Africa. One first step could be for the European Commission to explore areas of collaboration on poverty reduction with its peers in China, with the help of national development agencies and Chinese and European CSR networks.

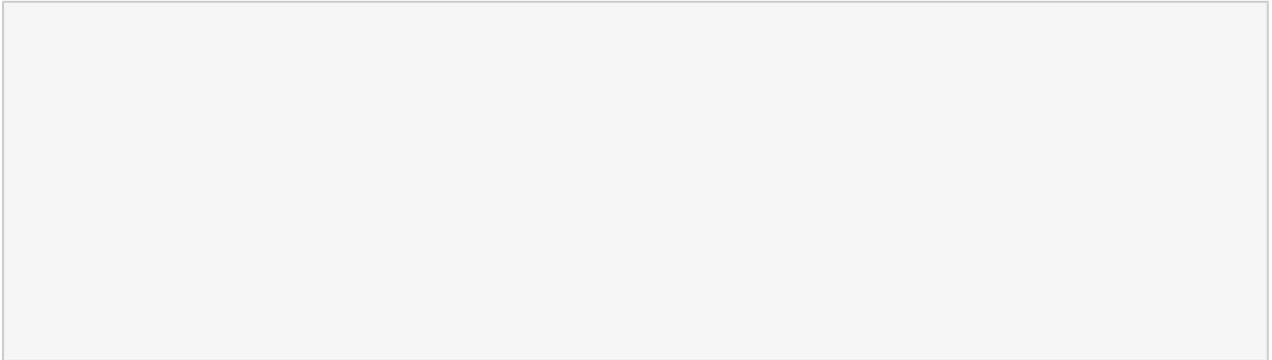
4.6 How can the EU refine its development policy to better address inequalities – including gender inequality – in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?



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?



(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 order to mobilise and maximise the impact of sustainable development finance from the private sector, the European Commission should:

Proposal 1: Enhance an enabling environment for business investments. Private investment accounts for over half of the financial resources available in developing countries, representing a huge potential for growth

and job creation. Yet the private sector in developing countries faces a wide range of obstacles compared to their peers in emerging markets: widespread informality, lack of access to finance, weak inter-firm linkages and regional economic integration, lack of export competitiveness, complex bureaucracy and taxation, infrastructure shortages, spluttering electricity supply, legal uncertainty and corruption.

It is in this context that we propose that the EU, in close collaboration also with networks of business practitioners, should make a strong step forward in securing an enabling environment for businesses to invest in developing countries, including using its political weight to promote its recommendations on the appropriate financial, technical and policy instruments.

Proposal 2: create a European Hub 2030 on Inclusive Business Models and Innovation.

Technology and innovation policies foster the implementation of the SDGs and should be a priority field of action for the EU. Companies play a crucial role as partners in value chains and as providers of innovative products and services; as a consequence, we propose the creation by the European Commission and by a group of leading national development agencies together with leading businesses and stakeholders of a European Hub on Inclusive Business Models and Innovation.

This platform would represent a practical way to implement Action 11 of the already mentioned EC Communication on “A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries” to “support the replication and scaling up of successful inclusive business models and innovative, market-based solutions to development problems”. In particular, the European Hub should have three clear objectives:

1) Raise awareness and develop business intelligence based on best-practice sharing and the promotion of ways to integrate inclusive business into companies’ strategy and value chain. By “inclusive business” we refer to business initiatives that, keeping their for-profit nature, contribute to poverty reduction by including low-income communities and people in the value chain as producers, entrepreneurs, workers or consumers.

2) Support capacity building through innovation platforms to: (a) roll out inclusive innovation that harness science, technology and innovation know-how in order to address the needs at the base of the pyramid and (b) provide opportunities to gain access to local knowledge and talents, explore product and service adaptation at low-risk and low-cost, and develop creative partnerships among key stakeholders at different level and scale.

3) Support research and innovation to help business, local communities and other stakeholders to understand communities’ needs in new way, identify innovative solutions to meet those needs and deliver financially sustainable solutions. Research is needed for leaders from the private sector, public authorities and civil society striving to defy outmoded business models and design tomorrow's enterprises.

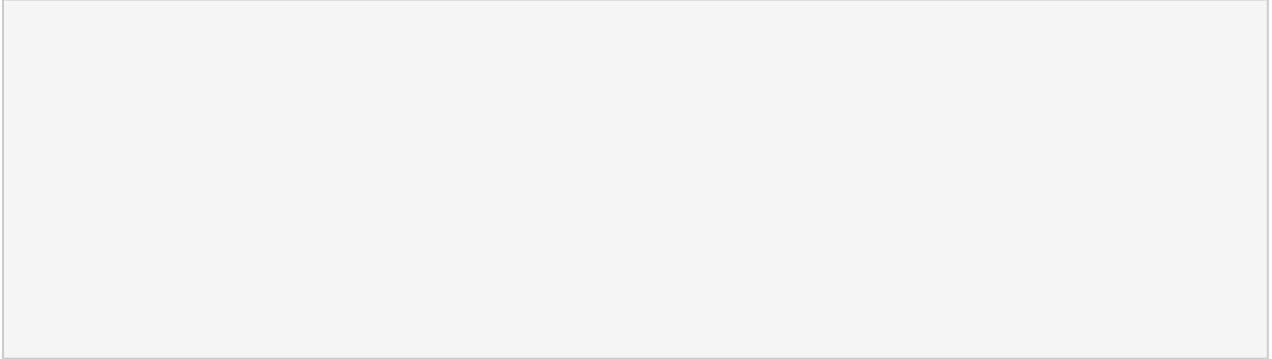
This European Hub should connect all involved users through the modern online technology (see examples of collaboration between USAID and Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), which is the equivalent in the US of what CSR Europe is in Europe.

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

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

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

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



(6) The actors: making it work together

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?

To strengthen these partnerships, our proposal focuses on the European Development Days (EDDs), which we suggest should become either the European Aid and Trade Days or the EU SDGs Days.

We believe that these new European days should broaden their scope and ensure a more balanced and effective participation. Year after year, EDDs' participants express the need for a deeper engagement with the business sector. In the meantime, every edition of the EDDs reveals how few companies do participate.

Therefore, future editions should have a much more balanced participation of public authorities (representatives of various policy areas, such as: economy, education, development, environment, etc.), civil society, business and sector associations, investors and academia.

Regarding their agenda, since many years the EDDs are mainly organized around plenaries and thematic workshops where much of the same is being discussed over and over. So, we propose that the new EDDs should be structured with sufficient:

- 1) Time to DISCUSS about how to overcome obstacles while focusing on success factors for development initiatives that create shared value, contributing to one or more of the SDGs.
- 2) Time to AWARD those men and women from different organisations that collaborate to develop sustainable solutions on the SDGs. A multi-stakeholder jury should not award brands but practical and collaborative projects (see as an example the European Awards on CSR) which ensured both national award schemes and one final Europe award).
- 3) Time to CONNECT through a real marketplace which allows different actors to meet with potential partners and/or offer opportunities for collaborations.

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

To promote private sector investment for sustainable development, the EU should:

1. Enhance an enabling environment. The EU can promote private sector investment for sustainable development by securing an efficient enabling environment for businesses to operate in developing countries (for more

details, see our reply to question 5.1, proposal 1). This can be done through a deeper involvement in the dialogue with local governments and including sustainability criteria in public procurement.

2. Boost PPPs. PPPs (Public-Private Partnership) are an important tool for mobilising long-term private finance as well as “innovative” financing mechanisms such as “blending” through which companies can use their creativity and innovation toward solving sustainable development challenges, with a significant potential to contribute to resources, expertise and technology transfer in support of sustainable development.

3. Create the European Hub 2030 on Inclusive Business Models. For more details, please see our reply to question 5.1, proposal 2. Please also consider this proposal in conjunction with our response to question 4.2, proposal 2, advocating for a more balanced EU approach towards both compliance AND innovation.

4. Leverage EU Trade Agreements for private investments for sustainable development. For more details, please see our reply to question 4.1, proposal 2.

5. Flagging standards and principles is not enough! So far EU policies on trade, development, employment and external affairs are rightly flagging the existing international conventions, standards and principles on human rights, labour conditions and respect for the environment. The EU does this with a strong narrative towards both governments and especially business in developing countries to comply with these international frameworks.

However, if the EU wants to connect more closely with the private sector and promote its investments in sustainable development, time has come to enrich the EU narrative, flagging and promoting the new generations of management tools (being developed by trusted networks and associations) that are translating and operationalising the existing international norms and standards in the language of business. We would like to refer to tools such as, for instance:

- Management of Complaints Assessment (MOC-A) tool, that translates the 8 effectiveness criteria of the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights into 21 process requirements for companies;
- Blueprint for Embedding Human Rights in Key Company Functions, that supports companies to build capacity on how to address human rights issues;
- The toolkit on Inclusive Business Modes at the Base of the Pyramid, that provides an overview of existing key resources and tools on inclusive business models.

These tools are addressed to managers and practitioners in the private sector responsible for the development of new business as well as to those in charge of more effective, responsible and sustainable human resources and purchase policies and practices.

6. Create Sectoral Platform Initiatives. The EU should give preference to sectoral platform initiatives to reach long-standing impact for human rights

and responsible supply chains, like for instance:

- The European Automotive Working Group on Supply Chain Sustainability, consisting of several automotive manufacturers working together - in addition to their own efforts - to enhance sustainability in their supply chains.
- The Responsible Sourcing across Industries (RSaI) platform, where companies from different sectors can share experiences, challenges, best practices and identify synergies to tackle common challenges in the value chains.
- The Road Safety Initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership to reduce serious injuries on roads in Africa.

The EU, in collaboration with interested national development agencies, could help magnify the development of actions designed in such platforms, which alone can only act as incubators, lacking the resources to reach a wider mainstreaming.

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

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

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

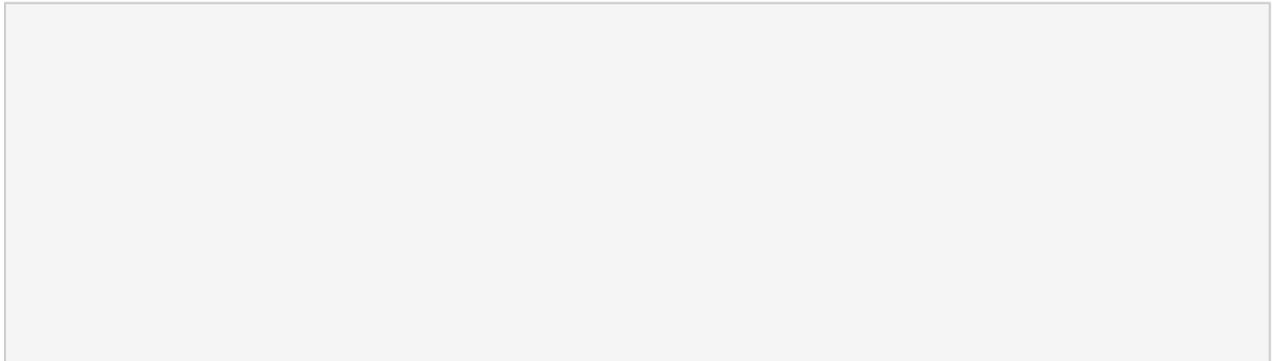
6.6 How can EU development cooperation be as effective as possible, and how can we work with all partners to achieve this?

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

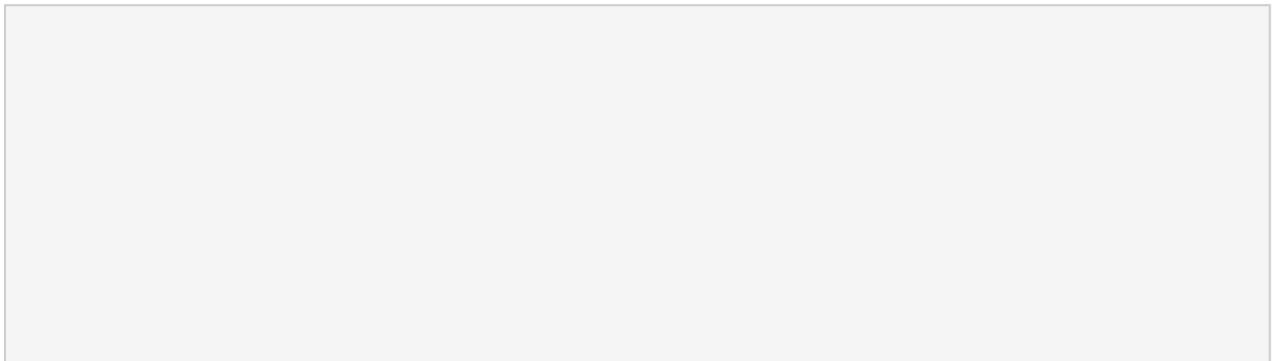
(7) Keeping track of progress

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.

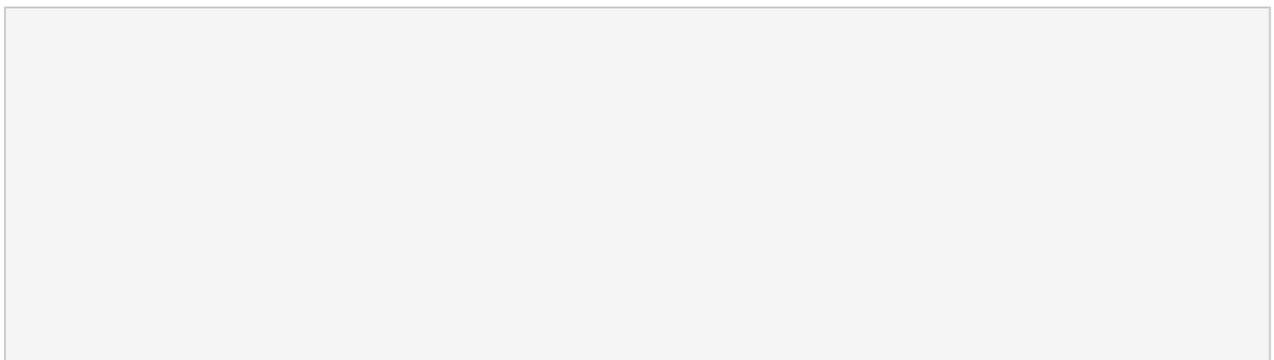
7.1 How can the EU strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis, including in the development field, to feed into its regular review on the Sustainable Development Goals to the UN?



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?



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