

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

## (2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

62193811660-44

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

CBM

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

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

2.6 Please specify

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

- In one of the 28 EU Member States
- Other

2.8 Please specify

**(3) Context: why a change is needed**

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

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

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

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

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

Income inequality within and between countries is still growing and poverty eradication has not been achieved despite the policy commitment of the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, natural hazards and armed conflicts are incrementing this gap in developing countries. Eradicating poverty, changing the economic paradigm and respecting the limits of the planet have become a/the priority for sustainability.

Taking into consideration the three pillars of the 2030 Agenda, that is to say, social, economic and environmental sustainability is vital to really linking goals and targets. This must be done in compliance with the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Persons with disabilities were left behind by the Millennium Development Goals. In contrast the Sustainable Development Goals contain clear references to persons with disabilities and crucially, the goals are universal and so will not be met if persons with disabilities are not reached. The proven link between disability and poverty demonstrates the importance to fully ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ensuring inclusion of persons with disabilities will contribute that no one is left behind. Implementing inclusive and accessible policies and programmes will promote that a biggest percentage of population benefit from these policies and programmes, not only persons with disabilities but also elderly people or women. However, policies and programmes which focus on general population will not work for persons with disabilities or other part of the population.

### 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?

The EU is the biggest donor on international cooperation. In addition, it is the first regional body to have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The vast majority of EU Member States (MS) have also ratified the CRPD. The CRPD should be used as one of the toolkits and guidelines to implement the 2030 Agenda, since there are no areas of the 2030 Agenda that CRPD does not cover.

This commitment from the EU and its MS on the rights of persons with disabilities must be translated into concrete actions.

- Mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU external policies and programmes
- Ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities as decision-makers and active agents to achieve sustainable development
- Developing an EU strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in compliance with the CRPD
- Establishing a coordination mechanism between EU Institutions, including Directorate Generals of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European External Action Service and the EU Delegations
- Including/Addressing the challenges of persons with disabilities who face multiple discrimination, such as women and girls with disabilities.

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

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

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

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

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

The 2030 Agenda is a very ambitious framework considering the three pillars in which it is based. The Paris Agreement but also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are frameworks included in the 2030 Agenda, which testifies that sustainability can only be achieved by having a holistic approach.

Combating climate change is a priority for persons with disabilities. Climate change is having the largest impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Within this group, 20% are people with disabilities, who are nearly always doubly disadvantaged.

Only a holistic approach by the EU will ensure a proper implementation of the SDGs. Participation of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), including organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs), in decision making processes is essential to ensure linkages between different development areas.

#### 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?

The UN human rights Treaties provide a legal framework for the EU to ensure balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

To ensure linkages among different frameworks and treaties, the EU should appoint focal points in all EU Institutions. In addition, a coordination mechanism should be in place, with the participation of CSOs, including organisations of persons with disabilities.

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

The EU should lead on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in compliance with UN treaties, especially the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as it is the first human right treaty ratified by a regional body, the EU.

For the EU to achieve a comprehensive development policy framework, persons with disabilities have to be included in all its policies. The EU should implement the twin track approach: mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across their development work, as well as financing focused projects on the participation of persons with disabilities in the community. The EU should revise the current policies and programmes, at internal and external level, to ensure they are developed and implemented in compliance with the CRPD. The funding of policies and programmes which do not include the rights of persons with disabilities should be cut and a review of EU external actions should be done with the support of organisations of persons with disabilities.

Disaggregated data by disability must be included in EU policy frameworks. Disaggregating data by disability is essential if we are to know the extent to which persons with disabilities are being included, or excluded, by EU development programmes.

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

The Gender Action Plan, which was published by the EU last year, is one example of lack of consistency among EU policies: despite highlighting the need of including women and girls with disabilities in the narrative part of the action plan, there is a lack of clear objectives and indicators which reach the needs of those women and girls with disabilities.

Coordination among EU institutions, capacity building of EU staff in Brussels but also in EU Delegations regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and the CRPD, promote the role of disability focal points among EU institutions are some of the initiatives that the EU should consider in order to really achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A common monitoring system for EU external actions should be established. This monitoring system must include data disaggregation by sex, age and disability. In addition, monitoring system should be aligned with SDGs indicators, in order to follow up implementation at international level.

**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)?**

As the biggest donor on International Cooperation the EU has a vital role at international fora, as it was demonstrated during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but also for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The impact of what the EU does has an effect worldwide. From one side, the EU has a coordinated mechanism with its EU Member States and, from the other side, its international weight at international, regional and national level allows the EU to influence the implementation of the SDGs. Areas such as trade, energy, climate change, human rights, education are some examples in which the political influence of the EU can promote a human rights based approach on the SDGs.

**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?**

Discrimination on the basis of disability, sex, age or other factors are not properly reflected in EU development policy. Multiple discrimination is even less reflected, which has a negative impact on the population that faces more vulnerable and discriminatory situations. Women and girls with disabilities still face more discrimination than women and girls without disabilities or than men and boys with disabilities. With respect to education, statistics from the World Report on Disability highlight that 50.6% of males with disability have completed primary school, compared with 61.3% of males without a disability. For females with disability the report notes that 41.7% completed primary school compared to 52.9% of females without a disability.

The 2030 Agenda is a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of the Millennium Development Goals. The new agenda, with its comprehensive approach, is defined by its fundamental principle “leave no one behind”. Participation of Civil Society Organisations must be a core principle for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, proper consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities must be included, especially in EU Delegations where there is a huge potential for persons with disabilities to be included as decision makers.

The EU should develop an implementation plan of the 2030 Agenda in compliance with the CRPD. The future of Europe 2020 should be coherent with this implementation plan, replacing the “business as usual” approach with a human rights based approach. In addition, the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020 should include specific actions related to the SDGs, including data disaggregation and addressing multiple discrimination.

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?

According to the 2030 Agenda, the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development is recognized. To achieve a sustainable response to migration and refugees crisis, the EU must put in place a comprehensive and coherent response. This response should be developed together with Civil Society Organisations. In order to ensure a unique and coherent response, the EU should clearly define “irregular migration” as well as the difference between “irregular migration” and “forced displacement”.

After the review of the EU implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Committee Members developed the Concluding Observations in which migration was specifically highlighted as one of the main concerns.

The Committee expressed its “deep concern regarding the situation of persons with disabilities in the current migrant crisis in the EU. It is furthermore concerned that refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers with disabilities continue to be detained within the European Union in conditions which do not provide appropriate support and reasonable accommodations. The migration decision-making procedure is not accessible for all persons with disabilities and information and communication is not provided in accessible formats.” The EU should put in place sustainable measures which are inclusive of and accessible for persons with disabilities.

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

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

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

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

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

Gathering quality data, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, as it states the 2030 Agenda. The CRPD, in concrete Article 31, is a guidance tool to ensure that monitoring system includes the rights of persons with disabilities. By knowing the impact of inclusion of persons with disabilities, the EU could lead on the implementation of the CRPD, sharing the results of the inclusion of persons with disabilities at social and economic level. At social level, disability-inclusive development will contribute to enrich diversity of society and to ensure that no one is left behind; at economic level, it will increase the active participation of persons with disabilities in the economy of the country. It is demonstrated that, for instance, in the Philippines an excess unemployment among individuals with unrepaired cleft lip and palate cost the government between US\$ 8 - 9.8 million dollars in lost tax revenue . This shows the positive impact of including persons with disabilities at economic level, which should be a good practice from the EU to share externally. Financing sustainable development is not a waste of money but an investment for the whole society. Persons with disabilities are 15% of population, which worldwide is translated to 1 billion people. In addition, it is proven that poverty is cause and consequence of disability. Private sector can support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. This inclusion must be in line with the CRPD, since there are no areas of the 2030 Agenda that the CRPD does not cover. Human Rights treaties must be the center guideline for private sector and other sustainable development finance to implement the 2030 Agenda.

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

The EU should have a holistic approach to implement the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All goals and targets are interconnected, as well as the SDGs with UN Human Rights treaties. Official Development Assistance should promote this holistic approach by ensuring that funded programmes and policies are based on the three pillars of the SDGs: economic, environmental and social sustainability. Proper consultation with Civil Society Organisations, including organisations of persons with disabilities, will ensure that ODA is properly and strategically implemented. OECD DAC must include policy making focused on inclusion in addition to set specific targets for inclusion.

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

Mapping exercises from EU Institutions, especially EU Delegations, of Civil Society Organisations at local and national level will allow a direct communication and an inclusive decision making process. Building capacity of CSOs at country level, sharing good practices and exchanging information to better adapt to the context of the country should also be promoted by the EU.

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

By exchanging information between low and middle income countries, societies can learn from the challenges and experiences of each other. In addition, middle income countries can provide data about the positive impact of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, demonstrating how sustainability and human rights approach benefit the entire society.

Middle income countries have the advantage of having developed sustainable policies and programmes, so that they can better identify possible future challenges and how to deal with them. These countries can have the role of facilitating the work of low income countries when developing an implementation plan of the 2030 Agenda. Last but not least, it is important to take into consideration the context of low and middle income countries to adapt the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the population. This can be supported by other low and middle income countries with similar contexts.

Participation of Civil Society Organisations, including those representing the most discriminated parts of the population such as organisations of persons with disabilities, is essential for the success of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both for low and middle income countries as well as for developed countries.

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?

The EU has put in place mechanisms to monitor Policy Coherence for Development, included in the Agenda for Change and reflected on the biannual report. However, there is still a need for coordination mechanisms between the EU and its partners, at international, regional, national and local level. Civil Society Organisations, including organisations of persons with disabilities, can support the EU to achieve coherence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public consultations must be published with proper deadlines for CSOs to consult properly with its partners and members. Public hearings between CSOs and government and local actors should be organised, both at EU and at country level. Academia should be an ally for the EU to follow up the impact of EU policies and programmes, promoting accountability and learning exchanges. Consultation with civil society, representing different aspects of the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental), should be systematically included as part of the daily work of EU institutions, especially of EU Delegations.

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

Small and medium enterprises can have a vital role for sustainable development. For instance, the inclusion of persons with disabilities to the labor market facilitated by small and medium enterprises will have an immediate impact on society. Small and medium enterprises can also contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, fighting against climate change or creating sustainable mechanisms that can lead to the paradigm shift of consumption and production.

## 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?

Building capacity within partner governments and local authorities, as well as within civil society organisations, will allow having a better understanding of how to implement SDGs. At the same time, there is a need to consider the cultural and social context to really achieve sustainability.

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?

The EU and the Member States should define a clear implementation plan in which participation and engagement of Civil Society Organisations are included. Coordination mechanisms, public hearings and accountability systems must be put in place in order to ensure coherence among the EU and the Member States.

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

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals demonstrated some challenges from which the EU can/should learn. There is a need to better identify the key objectives and the key partners with whom the EU should work. Sustainability should be an essential factor for the programmes to be funded. This also means that programmes must comply with the SDGs and must leave no one behind. Persons with disabilities were not included in the MDGs and this was a lesson learnt for the adoption of the SDGs.

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?

The EU should improve internal coordination among different institutions. The essence of the SDGs is based on the interlinkages between different goals and targets. This holistic and comprehensive approach can only be achieved if coordination is established, not only at EU level but also at country level which means that different ministries should coordinate among themselves.

## (7) Keeping track of progress

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The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting up of a Sustainable Development Goal monitoring system at global, regional and national level. Demonstrating results and impact from our efforts and the promotion of transparency will be important priorities for EU development policy, as part of a wider move to strengthen accountability, follow-up and review at all levels.

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

Data harmonization is vital to have a global perspective of the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, different UN Human Rights treaties should be the guideline on how to implement the SDGs. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), signed and ratified by the EU, is a legally binding framework to the EU. There are no areas of the SDGs that CRPD cannot cover, and this is also valid for other UN Conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

SDG indicators are a powerful tool to create an accountable system for the UN Member States. The EU can promote harmonization of indicators among its Member States, supporting the development of global, regional and national harmonized statistics.

#### 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?

In its implementation plan, the EU should establish clear lines for Member States to report on the implementation of the SDGs. Funded projects should be reviewed to verifying that the general principles of the SDGs as well as the three basis pillars are respected.

In addition, the EU must promote and ensure the participation of the Civil Society, especially those representing organisations of the most marginalised groups in order to participate in review processes of EU policies and programmes. This will ensure a people centered approach and it will guarantee that there is a particular focus on the poorest and most vulnerable part of the society.

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

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be followed by the High Level Political Forum. However, the first national reviews did not include specific references to persons with disabilities, despite of being 15% of population. The EU must promote the rights of persons with disabilities in national and regional implementation plans, as the biggest donor on International Cooperation.

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