EU public consultation on the "UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and revising the European Consensus on Development"

Contribution from Publish What You Fund

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).

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.

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

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2.2.1 If yes, what is your registration number?

026075817392-40

2.3 Name (entity or individual in their personal capacity)

Publish What You Fund

2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

Civil society (including Non-Governmental Organisation, specialised policy organisation, think tank)

2.6 Please specify

Publish What You Fund is the global campaign for aid transparency. Launched in 2008, we work to make information on development resources and activities open by default, and to make sure it is shared and used. We believe that whether it's fighting poverty, famine or climate change, transparent aid is better aid.

We want to see information on aid that is freely available and accessible. We want to see everyone from donors to citizens use that information. And we want to see greater development, better governance, democratic participation and reduced poverty as a result.

We are a founding member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and have advocated for international commitments to publish information to the IATI open data standard. We have monitored the implementation of these commitments with the publication of our annual Aid Transparency Index and advocated for progress by key donor agencies in the U.S. and the European Union (EU) as well as by multi-lateral organisations.

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

2.8 Please specify

United Kingdom

Consultation Questions

I. 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?

As highlighted in the report of the UN Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution, new technologies and information systems are driving an exponential increase in the volume of information and data from private and public sources

and our ability to collect and analyse data, creating unprecedented possibilities for informing and transforming society. *"Governments, companies, researchers and citizen groups are in a ferment of experimentation, innovation and adaptation to the new world of data, a world in which data are bigger, faster and more detailed than ever before. This is the data revolution"*[1].

As the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[2] has recognised, without high-quality data providing the right information on the right things at the right time designing, monitoring and evaluating effective policies to meet and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals becomes almost impossible.

From a development perspective, while the availability of data and information on development activities have increased, it is still difficult to compile a complete picture of all the resources flowing to a particular country, locality or sector and link them with their development outcomes. Often information is incomplete or undisclosed and even where information is publicly accessible, it can't be compared or used for coordination, budgeting, planning and monitoring.

An increasing number of governments and other development actors are embracing greater openness and transparency as a means to inform evidence-based policy-making and the design of better services, promote transparent policies and systems, and increase accountability to citizens and stakeholder groups. A number of multi-stakeholder initiatives are working to make information more transparent and accessible to citizens including by developing open data standards in key areas such as development financing, tax, procurement and contracts, extractive industry revenues and national budget expenditures.

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

In spite of the recognition that good governance, in its political, economic, social and environmental terms, is vital for inclusive and sustainable development, the EU is not consistently practicing what it preaches. Since its membership of the International Aid Transparency Initiative in 2011, the European Commission, via DG DEVCO has progressively championed the need for more and better open data on development finance. However, in general, implementation of EU policies on transparency, open data and development are under-prioritised and under-resourced, effectively siloed between different Directorates General within the European Commission and across institutions.

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[1] See http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/A-World-That-Counts2.pdf
[2] See http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

More than ever, EU institutions are more distant from European voters than national governments. The EU's structures, decision-making processes and budget are difficult for citizens to understand, and there is a widespread perception of a lack of transparency and accountability. The current EU approach towards open governance is not adequately responding to the concerns of citizens and its absence on the open government stage is notable.

The implementation of 2030 Agenda offers the EU the opportunity to develop a coherent internal and external policy approach to transparency and open data and open up its institutions for greater transparency, accountability and responsiveness towards both citizens both within Europe and its partner countries. **Membership of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)3 by the EU– even with observer status, can provide a useful mechanism for demonstrating a strong political commitment to open governance and the development and implementation of ambitious reforms. The European Commission's DG Budget, led by Vice President Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for budget and human resources could play a leading role in taking this forward.**

II.   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.

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[3] Since its launch in 2011, 65 countries have joined, including 20 EU member states, 5 candidate countries and another 9 European Neighbourhood countries.

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?

4.2 How should the EU strengthen the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy?

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

Much greater transparency is needed, building on what has already been achieved. Development financing is becoming an increasingly complex landscape. It encompasses resources from a wide range of public and private actors and has been expanding beyond traditional mechanisms, such as grants and concessional loans, to include newer ones such as public and private blended finance, non-concessional loans and South-South cooperation.

It is therefore more important than ever to be able to track the totality of traditional and newer types of financing from all actors and ensure all resources are used as effectively as possible to reach our collective goals. In order to do this, transparent, standardised open data on all financing flows – public and private, domestic and international – is essential for building a complete picture of the resources available for sustainable development, and to mobilise and monitor these resources at national and international levels.

The EU's development policy framework must continue to be underpinned by transparency as an explicit and core principle of effective development and greater accountability, and take forward EU leadership and ambition in this area.

The EU and its Member States should commit to improving the quality of the data they are publishing and to using this data in planning, delivering and monitoring sustainable development programming, in addition to promoting data use by all stakeholders both within Europe and at partner country level. EU Member States should integrate this commitment into their national aid strategies and OGP Action plans where appropriate.

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?

Over the past 5 years the European Commission has made significant progress in improving the transparency of its external assistance. In 2016, for the first time, the EC's main spending departments of EU external assistance[4] are clustered in the same performance category; "Good" of Publish What You Fund's [Aid Transparency Index](...)[5]. This has been facilitated by the creation of an EC Inter-service working group, which has generated improvement across departments.

It will be critical to ensure that all EU institutions with responsibility for implementing EU development finance or managing external financing instruments are subject to the same standards of transparency, including private sector partners and the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other development banks in which the EU has a stake, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The recent Grand Bargain commitment to publish humanitarian aid data to the IATI open data framework by May 2018 is a clear step forwards in beginning to bridge the humanitarian and development data divide by enabling better decision making, coordination and cooperation across the two sectors. **EU donors that are currently publishing to IATI - including DG ECHO - should strive for a far more ambitious delivery than the proposed 2-year timeframe, given the technical solution already exists and many donors already publish the data on their development aid and other resource spending in this format. EU Member States and DG ECHO should incentivise their humanitarian implementing partners to publish to the IATI Standard by using their IATI data to reduce the burden of multiple donor reporting requirements.**

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[4] The Directorate General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) is the best performing EC agency, leapfrogging DG Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) and DG ECHO.
[5] See http://ati.publishwhatyoufund.org.

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

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

High quality, accessible, timely, and reliable data disaggregated by age, gender, geographic location, income quintile and disability will be needed to help address inequalities when measuring progress in implementing 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?

III. 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[6] 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

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

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.

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?

Greater transparency is needed on the variety of sustainable development financing instruments and their outcomes in order to understand the comparative advantages of different instruments within a given context and make an evidence-based decision on how to use them most effectively.

5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance[7], 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?

Partner country governments have made repeated calls for more and better information on development finance in order to mobilise their own resources. Currently, ministers and parliamentarians struggle to know how much is being invested in their country, from whom, and how it is being spent. These are prerequisites for encouraging local ownership and responsibility and, ultimately, sustainable development[8].

The EU and Member States should be upholding and strengthening their commitments to **publish timely, comprehensive and forward-looking data on their development activities in accordance with IATI by December 2018.** In order to use the data at country level, EU donors should be supporting the development of local and user-friendly Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS) and ensuring the accessibility of data for all stakeholders

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[7] See, for example, 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.
[8] See http://www.aidtransparency.net/about/partner-country-perspectives

engaged in the national sustainable development strategy process, including civil society organisations and accountability stakeholders.

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[9] in taking into account the objectives of development cooperation in the implementation of EU policies which are likely to affect developing countries, 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?

IV.   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[10] 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.

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[9] Policy Coherence for Development: 2015 EU Report
[10] 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?

As part of a multi-stakeholder approach to financing sustainable development, and in order to "follow the money" along the delivery chain, the EU and its Member States should require their implementing partners to publish their data in accordance with the IATI open data Standard. In particular, this should include international or multi-lateral organisations such as the UN, private contractors and service providers as well as multi-lateral and bi-lateral development finance institutions and organisations involved in implementing the EU's Blending facilities.

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

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

6.1+6.2+6.3 There is a need for a renewed emphasis on the quality of development finance, including existing commitments on aid and development effectiveness made in Paris, Accra and Busan[11] and through work with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

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

The design, review, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a national sustainable development strategy should be transparent and inclusive and include consultations with a wide range of stakeholders (government entities, parliament, local governments, providers, private sector, trade unions, civil society and foundations). National strategies as well as all related documents should be published and easily accessible by all stakeholders and citizens. **Partner countries should be encouraged to publish open data on national budgets and ensure that development finance data is publicly accessible to all stakeholders via their Aid Information Managements Systems, where appropriate.**

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 its Member States should ensure that the implementation of the development effectiveness principles: ownership of development priorities by developing countries, a focus on results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and accountability to

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[11] See Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

each other – underpin their support to partner countries in achieving 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?

Aid transparency is one of the few development effectiveness principles where there has been progress. Our 2016 Aid transparency Index shows a steady improvement since Busan: over 25% of all aid meets a "very good" standard of transparency compared with 0% in Busan in 2011. However only two EU Member State agencies (the UK's DFID and Sweden) are included in the Indexes "very good" category, scoring above the 80% threshold required for information to be useful.

The EU and its Member States should revitalise efforts to improve the quality of their IATI publication and strengthen their commitment to implementing the EU Aid Transparency Guarantee. However data publication does not deliver transformational change on its own. It has to be used, and for that to happen, it has to be usable.

Technology can and is helping increase the usability of data through the growth of visualisations and other user-friendly tools. Initiatives to track financing for development flows are already underway and partner country governments are beginning to use IATI open data in their Aid Information Management Systems.

However, information needs to reach beyond online publication. This means that development partners should proactively publish information in formats and forums that allow them to reach different stakeholders at national and sub-national levels. This includes allowing and encouraging intermediaries such as journalists, NGOs, academics, and research institutions to use data for multiple purposes. It also means empowering civil society and citizen groups by building awareness, skills and capacity around open data, thus encouraging their participation in policy-making processes and their ability to hold institutions and governments to account. The EU and its Member States should develop strategies for internal and external use of their data with all relevant stakeholders, in particular by partner countries and civil society organisations.

The European Commission, DG DEVCO should continue to play a leadership role in encouraging as well as facilitating forums for exchanging best practice and lesson learning on data publication and use, among EU Member States and across EU institutions. EU Delegations should be supported and encouraged in analysing and using the data in the preparation of national sustainable development strategies and joint programming initiatives at country level.

The High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Nairobi at the end of 2016 provides an opportunity for the **EU to show leadership on this agenda by strengthening its commitment to publish timely, comprehensive and forward-looking data on its development activities to the IATI**

Standard by December 2018 and to develop tools to promote data use and use this data in planning, delivering and monitoring development initiatives, especially at country level.

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 be making better use of using its IATI data to support its joint programming activities, **and strengthen the usability the EU Aid Explorer portal to increase public access and awareness of EU financing activities in support of the 2030 agenda.**

V.   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?

Information on results is crucial. It allows for the impact of development finance to be measured, outcomes evaluated, and best practices to be shared. This facilitates multiple levels of accountability between stakeholders in EU donor and partner countries. As we turn our attention to the value of better data, good quality and comprehensive results information has huge potential as a benchmark for more effective allocation of resources. According to our recent analysis, of all the organisations that have published results consistently in 2014, only one further organisation, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has begun to publish results since 2014.

There are few examples of organisations themselves using the results they publish to IATI or in other formats for programming or resource allocation. **This is an area where the EU needs to make considerable progress; for example by ensuring the systematic publication of high quality results information and data, and using the IATI open data framework to make this information accessible as well as building the capacity of staff members and external stakeholders to analyse and use the data.**

While efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries will be crucial, the ability to compare and use information from different sources and across sectors within the context of the 2030 Agenda. Right now it is incredibly difficult to join up the data we already have on money, people and results, because it is published in different formats and to different standards. This stops it from being turned into useful information for decision-

making and accountability. To solve this, we need to enable existing and future data standards to join up. **EU and Member State statistical bodies should support efforts to make data standards interoperable, allowing data from different sources to be more easily compared and used.**

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

The EU could develop a centralised public reporting system to collect and make available its contribution to meeting the SDGs, building on existing standards and an open data approach. **As part of a multi-stakeholder approach to financing sustainable development, the EU should ensure that all implementing partners publish their data in accordance with the IATI Standard. This should include international or multi-lateral organisations such as the UN, development finance institutions such as the EBRD or World Bank Trust Funds, private contractors and service providers and civil society organisations.**

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