

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?

645236722991-57

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

Conselho Empresarial para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável

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

Business network working for sustainable development

* 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

Portugal

(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?

BCSD Portugal believes challenges related to climate change and its impact on people's lives will play a decisive role in the development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Taking urgent action on climate change is necessary to support the needs of present and future generations and to create conditions for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all. Efforts must be stepped up to tackle climate change, pollution and other environmental challenges. These issues are already dealt with in many developed countries, but there is a need to reinforce such aspects in the developing world, since many of the goods purchased in the developed world are produced in the developing world. In order to be successful in deploying the 2030 agenda, it is imperative for the EU to prioritize among those global trends and to focus on what is most relevant for the EU and its members.

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 should focus on economic policies to foster green growth, both by empowering its people on green economy matters and by giving the right incentives for greening the private sector. New and stricter environmental policies should be put in place but streamlined so as not to create barriers to doing business. As rules became more stringent worldwide, it is important for the EU to be in the forefront of new technologies and solutions. The EU must act to guarantee that all stakeholders contribute to fostering green growth so that in the future it will continue to reap the fruit of earlier innovations and a favorable market position. The aim must be to orientate policies to foster new, cleaner technologies and allow competitive measures to remove old, dirty technologies and processes that hurt both growth and the environment.

New internal policies should include more incentives for all stakeholders to engage in this matter, help identify necessities and invest in innovative solutions, tackle obstacles and educate and promote sustainable consumption, promote coordination between different governance levels, focus on cutting CO2 emissions and the development of cleaner technologies.

Negative impacts of climate change will hit poor people and poor countries disproportionately and further compromise the achievement of their development goals. With regard to development policies, the EU should guarantee that climate change adaptation and mitigation policies are integrated at all levels of development decision-making (including in the production process of goods in the developing countries), and to channel adequate financial resources to fund climate-related activities that promote development effectiveness. Development-aid policies should integrate climate change adaptation into development planning and assistance, fostering knowledge transfer, reduce their vulnerability to climate change, empower populations to meet the needs of a green economy and create new markets for EU businesses.

(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?

Sustainable Development Goals provide the global umbrella for climate change policies and sustainable development issues in general. Therefore, it makes sense for the EU to have one single sustainable development strategy that responds to the SDG and the 2030 Agenda, which encompasses all matters agreed upon in an international context. In fact, if the EU has a 2030 agenda based on the SDGs, it only needs to aggregate the policy areas that already exists to one or more SDG. In doing so, the EU would have all its policy areas working towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Measures taken by the EU to foster green growth and sustainable development will contribute to achieve the Paris Agreement which, in turn, will contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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?

Social, environmental and economic concerns should coexist in all EU policies as well as those of member states'. At the moment, such coherence is not present. Gradually, social, environmental and economic issues should be incorporated in the European external trade policy, so that sustainable issues can become present in developing countries' production patterns. To ease the transition to a model that values those aspects regardless of the issue at hand, the EU could create a simplified matrix of the SDGs. Such a matrix would help acknowledge all relevant issues and at the same time contribute to better address the links between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and addressing other global sustainable development challenges.

The EU will also need to acknowledge that negative impacts of climate change in poorer countries will further compromise the achievement of their development goals. As such, it is particularly relevant that the EU integrates climate change adaptation and mitigation policies at all levels of development decision-making whilst investing in the improvement of their social and economic status. Development-aid policies should integrate climate change adaptation into development planning and assistance, fostering knowledge transfer, reduce their vulnerability to climate change, empower populations to meet the needs of a green economy and create new markets for EU businesses. It is fundamental to involve the private sector of the developing world in this process, i.e., it is fundamental to transfer knowledge from Europe to other non-European countries about the importance of good sustainable business practices and how that can contribute to stable returns.

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

The strategy should be more aligned with the 2030 agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. As such, more focus should be put on environmental concerns, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, pressure on the use of natural resources, preservation of ecosystem services, etc. Development policies should strengthen knowledge transfer, innovative models in line with the needs of developing countries' populations, bring down barriers to new and innovative business models that can thrive and promote growth and employment. The commitment to work with other relevant stakeholders such as businesses should be reinforced. The EU development policy should encourage countries to increase their green growth and to increase their green business. In fact, green and sustainable business should be seen as the answer/tool for these countries to grow and to create jobs.

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?

We would expect to see greater consistency on the issue of climate change and human rights, along the value chain of products that are produced outside Europe and consumed in Europe. If Europe has a strong climate change policy – together with the implementation of democratic values and practices such as human rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law – then it must try to be coherent with that and with the investment, banking and international trade approach implemented by EU. With the SDGs, EU must reinforce its internal policies with non-European countries, and must align its investment and its financial system with the SDG goals.

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)?

The EU is well-positioned to be a key partner in the fight against climate change and to stand up for good governance practices. The EU can be an important partner in the transition to a greener economy, contributing to knowledge-transfer and the investment in innovative solutions that promote the protection of natural resources alongside job creation and well-being. The cooperation with developing countries should be based on EU's core values like promoting good governance, respecting human rights and gender equality. The EU must also continue to include a strong gender component in all its policies and practices in its relations with developing countries. The promotion of gender equality and women's rights is a fundamental human right and a question of social justice and is instrumental in achieving the SDG.

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?

Respect for human rights, including equality between genders and equal opportunities for all, should be a prerequisite of all EU development policies. The values that are core for the EU should also be carried out in cooperation and development policies. Donor countries should adopt a set of basic criteria to be respected regardless of the policy at hand. For example, it must be a requirement to safeguard human rights while promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns. Likewise, they should also be present in the value chain of all products consumed in the EU.

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?

Tackling climate change is a great way to contribute to peace and security. Climate change is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries their livelihoods and forcing millions of people into displacement and migration. The poorest and most vulnerable people are being affected the most. Affordable, scalable solutions are available to enable countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies and the EU can help make that transition by fighting climate change. Therefore, tackling climate changes issues can reinforce resilience of countries and can also contribute to greater security of people.

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?

The revised Consensus on Development must have a greater focus on long term education programmes that can impact the largest number of people, specifically young children. These education programs should provide knowledge about the European values (democratic values and practices such as human rights, fundamental freedoms, good governance and the rule of law, gender equality and equal opportunities for all) and about the European approach to business in the XXI century, i.e., green growth and sustainable consumption and production business approach. Only through long term educational programmes can one expect further changes and can stop irregular migration and forced displacement from developing countries. Regarding the minimization of the existing irregular migration, we believe the solution will also include educational programmes about the European Values and European vision for business and economic growth.

(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?

To mobilise the private sector, the EU must first and foremost contribute to peace and stability in developing countries. That can be achieved through a variety of policies, including policies that promote education on European values and on environmental and green growth issues. The Financing of sustainable development by the private sector will be more present in countries with less political and conflict risks, which is usually associated with countries where markets are liberalised and political governance is secure and democratic.

The EU must also develop external policies that encourage financial markets to invest in businesses that promote sustainable development. This could be achieved by having EU funds sharing some of the investment risk, by having some type of positive discriminatory fiscal policy and by negotiating with developing country governments.

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?

ODA should continue to be a major source of finance for LDCs and fragile states, which particularly lack domestic capacity to raise finance from other sources. ODA should be coherent with the SDG goals, i.e., should make sure that environmental, social and governance issues are taken into account in all the financial assistance. In particular, ODA should be used to address climate change, climate adaptation, and green entrepreneurship education and practices. Also, ODA should continue to help leverage other means of implementation, in particular public domestic financing and private sector investment, but also science, technology and innovation.

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

The EU can better support developing countries in mobilising their own domestic revenue by helping them: to implement educational programmes that share the European values and the importance of green business and green development growth; to implement efficient and effective tax systems which can encourage green and sustainable business; to establish reliable sustainable financial markets and good governance at public administration and private companies' levels.

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

Partnerships with middle income countries could be based on technical and capacity building support to help them transition to greener business models.

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 can contribute to sustainable development priorities in a coherent manner by putting in place legal and political requirements, reporting and coordination mechanisms.

We believe that the coherence would be improved if the EU was able to expand the sustainability concerns along the value chain of all goods that are traded in Europe. By identifying a set of minimal requirements that all goods and services traded in Europe should have and that should be reported, the EU would improve its development policy coherence.

EU delegations also play a central role when providing feedback on the impact of EU policies on partner countries and when identifying challenges on policy coherence.

(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?

SDG 17 calls for governments and stakeholders to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, including through development co-operation and development financing. All relevant actors must have the space to engage in development, recognizing their diversity and the complementarity of their actions.

The EU must create an environment that encourages action by other stakeholders:

- We believe the EU could develop training and scholar/ university programs to educate young people about the new SDGs and its implication for economic growth. By doing so, it would provide the information that could trigger higher participation in the future.
- The EU could also identify key areas in which Member States should develop efforts to promote partnerships with civil society at large. By doing this each member state would have the arguments to implement several activities.
- The EU should pay particular attention to the implementation of partnerships with the financial sector, so that this sector can gradually see SDGs as potential business opportunities and start to implement sustainability criteria upon lending money. By doing this, member states would be encouraged to work on these issues with their local banks.
- It is also important to develop guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda's implementation as well as keeping track of progress, which will help other stakeholders become successful in addressing new and emerging issues.

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

EU can promote private sector investment for sustainable development in several ways:

- In developing countries:

- o Policy reform and investment in infrastructures in developing countries will be essential to make those countries more attractive for potential investors. A good investment climate is one which provides opportunities for all investors: public and private, large and small, foreign and domestic.

- o The EU can help partner countries implement the OECD's Policy Framework for Investment.

- o The EU should focus on promoting activities that will lead to an increasing access to markets, boost the reliability of official institutions, improving legislation, creating good infrastructures and enabling access to financial services.

- o EU could help developing countries implement fiscal policies and economic policies that encourage business and public stakeholders towards green business and green economic growth

- Among companies:

- o Fiscal policies: the private sector needs to be encouraged to increase efforts to improve the sustainability of their operations worldwide and contribute to sustainable development. This could be done by having special fiscal policies or other mechanisms that can reward positively companies with such market practices.

- o Responsible Investment: Responsible investors that respect international standards of responsible business conduct can help to identify and respond to risks, to spur innovation and to pave the way for greener and more resilient economies. Therefore, the EU should develop fiscal policies or other mechanisms that encourage the grow of responsible investors.

- o The right incentives: the private sector needs the right incentives to bring sustainable development gains in addition to the financial returns investors are looking for. Private sector investment for sustainable development should aim at protecting natural resources, create jobs and well-being, create wealth for the poorer, develop rural areas, agriculture and food safety. Therefore, the EU should make sure that EU and Member States' policies should promote sustainable economic growth.

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

The EU should be coherent with its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and with its financial and economic growth strategy. Once the EU has a 2030 agenda defined and is able to link all its policies to the 17 SDGs, then it should become easy to identify how the financial sector can contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. If this happens, the EU gains the legitimacy to strengthen its relationship with other international institutions. If this is not reached, then such legitimacy will be very weak.

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 EU can help partner countries by providing and mobilising knowledge, expertise and technology, as well as by helping them develop policies and financial resources that can help accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda in each country.

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?

Development cooperation is a shared competence between the European Community and the Member states. EU and Member States' policies should be complementary. Key action areas and goals should be identified by the EU and carried out by Member States in their aid, development and cooperation efforts. It must be the EU to steer the Member States' policy towards achieving the goals of sustainable development. Member States will play the most substantial role in implementation and financing in those developing countries with which they have a stronger relationship due to historical or economic links.

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

Execution of the SDGs will be more successful if the sustainability goals are implemented through a network of partnerships using national experiences to build and share best practice across regions. The 2030 Agenda comes with a new concept of cooperation that engages all stakeholders, embraces diversity and recognises the distinct roles that all stakeholders can play to support development. That's what the EU must do: recognize each partner strengths and build on those to help partners countries transition to a more sustainable development. Everyone has a role to play. For instance, for the private sector to get involve and invest in developing countries it needs the right incentives and legal and economic framework, which the EU can help achieve with the partner countries.

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 Joint Programming should include new research areas such as: sustainable production; sustainable consumption; sustainable finance and green entrepreneurship; new businesses and climate adaptation, for example. These topics should be developed in partnerships between Europe and developing countries, particularly in topics related to climate change, sustainable production and sustainable finance. JPIs could contribute to gather scientific knowledge on how to increase success in development and cooperation actions towards achieving the 2030 agenda, linking science with management practices.

(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?

Monitoring progress on the SDG's will be of the utmost importance in executing the 2020 agenda. Each of the targets of each of the Sustainable Development Goals should be attributed a method for measuring progress. The EU will need to work closely with all partners and organizations engaging in development policies in order to collect the necessary information. Whenever possible, the methods chosen must build on existing monitoring systems and not pose a heavy burden on countries. EU should be able to identify a set of targets and methods that should be used by all member states in order to understand how each member state has been complying with each of the 17 SDG.

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 new agenda is a universal one. For successful reporting is necessary to achieve multistakeholder participation. All stakeholders are expected to identify, implement and report on specific actions that lead to the achievement of the SDGs.

The data collecting and reporting methods should build on existing models and best practices and provide space for the sharing of experiences and lesson-learning.

At company level, for instances, companies that use the GRI framework to report their non-financial information, can already use some of that information to respond to the SDG as expressed in this document "Linking the SDGs and GRI". Therefore, EU should state which existing benchmarks can be used by companies to help them report on SDGs.

At national level, the EU should state what type of indicators each member state must report, and provide information about as well as the method used to report such information.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has identified ten key principles for selecting robust Global Monitoring Indicators. Those are a good sample of how to ensure that the review process generates results that can inform policy-making and facilitate adequate and timely responses. SDSN proposition is for the indicators to be:

1. Limited in number and globally harmonized (for global monitoring indicators);
2. Simple, i.e. single-variable indicators with straightforward policy implications;
3. High-frequency, allowing regular monitoring, preferably on an annual basis;
4. Consensus-based, in line with international standards and system-based information;
5. Constructed from well-established data sources;
6. Disaggregated to the greatest extent possible;
7. Universal;
8. Mainly outcome-focused;
9. Science-based and forward-looking;
10. A good proxy for broader issues or conditions.

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

The EU should provide all the necessary information, and help partner countries to implement their own agenda.

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