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

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

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Age Action Ireland (Lianne Murphy)
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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

Non-governmental organisation

* 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

Ireland

(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?

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It is important that the EU takes an integrated approach to implementing the
2030 Agenda in the context of all the current demographic and other listed
trends. Population ageing and longevity are cross-cutting trends and global
phenomena which are happening at an unprecedented pace. By 2050 there will be
over 2 billion people aged 60 and over compared to 928 million today, with
the majority living in low and middle-income countries (UN DESA, World
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Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition). Ageing is happening in every region of the world. Several countries in East Asia and the Pacific are moving towards one third of their population over 60.

We present demographic trends, specifically global ageing and longevity, as the most important trends in answer to this question partly due to their scale, pace and the irreversible and fundamental impact they are already having on societies and economies worldwide. This is coupled with deepening socio-economic inequality globally and nationally. Older populations are not a homogeneous group and there are particular problems in old age for those with lower access to resources.

Population ageing and longevity are also trends that are still largely overlooked in development policy and programming, including in the EU's development cooperation, which often results in older people being left behind – invisible, unrecognised, and neglected in sustainable development efforts.

Older people experience inequality in economic, political, environmental, or social domains. These inequalities are reinforced by the discrimination older people face based on their age. Ageing and other demographic trends are also inter-related. Social, economic, political and health advances have led to reduced fertility and increased longevity. Longer lives can be seen as a triumph of global and national development efforts to which the EU, as the world's biggest donor of aid, makes a significant contribution. The significance of population ageing and longevity cut across many different aspects of development with implications that cannot be ignored.

Older people are often denied equal access to health and care services, property rights, decent work, and livelihood opportunities. Similarly, older people may experience intersecting and cumulative discrimination; older people living with disabilities, for example, experience double discrimination relating to their age and disability status. And, as gender-based discrimination accumulates throughout the life course, older women in particular can become more vulnerable to poverty, abuse and violation of human rights.

The leave no one behind commitment has given older people new visibility in the post 2015 process. However, the scale, pace and impact of demographic ageing requires us to think beyond older people as a homogenous, minority or vulnerable group. Unless the heterogeneity of older populations is understood, it is not possible to develop successful policies or plan effectively.

Older people should not however be considered a burden. They are able, and indeed do, contribute enormously to their families and communities. It is crucial to challenge ageism and age discrimination and recognise the positive contributions that older people make daily to their own families, their communities and national economies. Support is needed to ensure that enabling environments are in place so that all people can contribute as they age in all spheres of life. In Europe, the evidence of the positive net contributions from older people to younger generations is clear; the evidence in developing countries is challenged by available data, but findings are emerging which corroborate those found in developed countries.

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?

It is crucial that the new revised European Consensus on Development takes into account both the opportunities and challenges that global ageing and longevity present. The EU has not yet responded adequately to these demographic megatrends, although in recent years, several of its institutions have begun to show increased awareness and commitment. The 2030 Agenda's overarching principle of 'Leave No One Behind', a strong focus on inequality, and the inclusion of goals and targets of direct relevance to ageing and the lives of older people who are living longer mean that it has the potential to be truly transformational in its approach to older people and population ageing. The EU must now reorient its development policy to align to and develop sound implementation mechanisms in support of this global universal agenda. It is important that this does not result in any weakening of existing EU commitments where these are stronger and more clearly articulated than those in the SDGs, for example in the EU's Gender Action Plan 2016–2020. Ageing and longevity inevitably present a number of important implications, particularly in developing countries. The EC Communication 'A Decent Life For All' in February 2013 clearly recognised two key ageing-related issues, notably pensions and health systems as areas where greater efforts will be required in developing countries. In 2012 the EU developed a policy framework on social protection in development, an issue that features across a number of the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and its target 1.3. The EC Communication on Social Protection in Development Cooperation of 2012 supports universal, rights-based national social protection floors that address a range of life cycle risks as set out in the ILO Recommendation 202 (R202 – Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012). The EU is in a strong position to play a leading role in global efforts to achieve the SDG target 1.3 on social protection by fully implementing its existing commitments on this issue and exploring its links with other areas of development. Regarding healthcare, SDG 3 presents a holistic view of health and well-being with the goal explicitly including people of all ages. It incorporates a target (3.4) on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which is important in the context of population ageing and the shifting burden of disease globally. However, the fact that target 3.4 perpetuates the discriminatory language of 'premature mortality' presents significant challenges for the full inclusion of older people. The new European Consensus on Development must not use this discriminatory language and should instead lead the way in clearly including people of all ages in reference to all global health work and NCDs in particular. This must include the collection of data to track progress in the implementation of the SDGs. Data must be inclusive of people of all ages, particularly on NCDs where data collection on mortality has tended to exclude people 70 and over, and on NCD interventions being tracked as an indicator of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which have focussed on people up to the age of 64.
The WHO Global Strategy and Action Plan adopted at the 2016 World Health Assembly provides a useful framework for the EU to better align its global health work to population ageing.
Commitments to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment are clear

both in the 2030 Agenda and EU legislation and policy. The EU's Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 went a step further than SDG 5 in reinforcing the important language on 'girls and women of all ages' of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, recognising the need for gender equality across the life course. It also recognises the need to analyse and address the multiple forms of discrimination that many girls and women are subjected to. This includes intersecting discrimination (when different forms of discrimination overlap) and cumulative discrimination (when the impact of discrimination builds up over a lifetime). The new European Consensus must firmly reinforce this language and these objectives and ensure adequate investment in enabling the full implementation of this Gender Action Plan.

Effective models are available globally that can support the EC to better harness the opportunities of ageing societies. Multifunctional Older People's Associations for example have already gained recognition from governments, ASEAN, international organisations and academics for their potential to support older people to improve income security, health, and social connectedness for both older people themselves and the wider community.

(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?
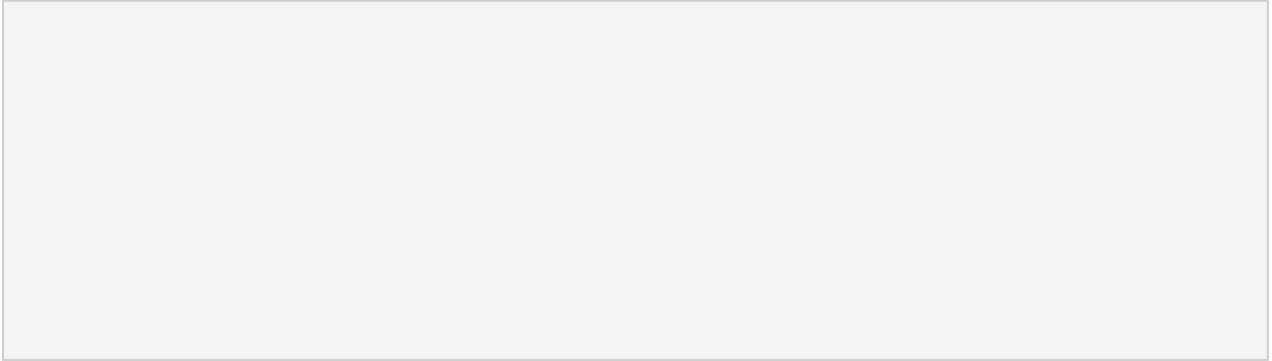
4.2 How should the EU strengthen the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy?
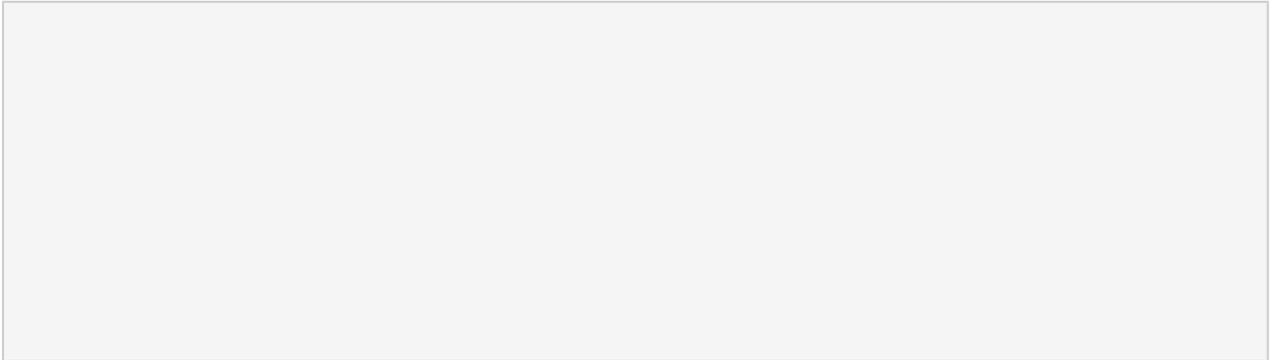
4.3 What are the main changes you would like to see in the EU's development policy framework?

References to older people or 'people of all ages' are made throughout the SDGs, leaving no doubt that people at all stages of their lives must be included in the response to the challenges outlined in the framework. 22 of the targets across the 17 SDGs either directly name older people as a group or indirectly include them by referencing 'for all people', 'of all ages', or 'universal'. Agenda 2030 also makes the much needed commitment to disaggregating data by age. However, it is currently only possible to access data disaggregated by age for a limited number of SDG indicators meaning that measurement of progress may not be possible, even for some targets that specifically relate to older people, without significant investment. Similarly at the EU level, it is very welcome that a number of EU development policies have referred to 'older people' or 'age' or 'people of all ages' in recent years. Although it is noted that these references remain scattered and inconsistent. Sustainable development will be impossible unless ageing issues are fully mainstreamed across EU development policies. To truly harness the opportunity of reorienting development in a way that responds effectively to demographic change, including global ageing, the new revised European Consensus on Development policy must reinforce the EU's recognition that demographic change, including global ageing, is a major concern for development cooperation. Leadership from the EU is essential for realising the ambitions of the Leave No One Behind agenda, as well as improving the EU's accountability and ensuring that older people are recognised as full actors in achieving the SDGs. If the EU is to achieve its commitment to the 2030 Agenda it is crucial that it steps up its efforts to invest in the collection, analysis and dissemination of more accurate data disaggregated by age, sex, ability and other factors in partner countries using the parameters of target 17.18 as a benchmark.

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 highlight human rights, non-discrimination and gender equality and women's empowerment as the main areas where EU development policy can be more consistent with other areas of the EU's external action in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In July 2015, the EU adopted its EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019 for its external action. This Action Plan included for the first time a single action dedicated to 'increasing awareness of the human rights and specific needs of older persons paying particular attention to age based discrimination'. The EU's decision to include this commitment reflects the growing international attention now being paid to older people's rights, evidenced by the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Council of Europe Recommendation to member states on the promotion of human rights of older persons. It also points to the global consensus on the fact that much more needs to be done to address the glaring implementation and protection gaps in relation to older people's right and growing support internationally for a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

This Action Plan also proposes steps to develop an EU Toolkit on Anti-discrimination, outlining tools for anti-discrimination measures against all forms of discrimination, including multiple forms of discrimination. The issue of multiple discrimination was again raised in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, which also covers the EU's external action work and recognises the diversity of girls and women and the threat of intersecting discrimination. Meanwhile, in the humanitarian sector, the importance of gender and age and their intersection was explored by DG ECHO and led to the adoption of a Staff Working Document and the launch of the gender- and age-sensitive aid approach and the Gender-Age Marker.

To ensure consistency with other areas of the EU's external action, the new European Consensus must also make reference to older people's rights and/or age discrimination when highlighting particular aspects of human rights or cross-cutting issues. Language such as 'age' and 'of all ages' should always be clearly included in any descriptions of different types of discrimination or how to address inequalities across a person's life course. The importance of multiple discrimination should be emphasised as a critical factor in ensuring that no-one, including older people, are left behind.

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)?

> It will be important for the EC to continue to support CSOs (including grassroots and local CSOs) with a renewed focus on governance, human rights and civil society strengthening.

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?

> The 2030 Agenda is a huge step forward from the MDGs, recognising a wide range of inequalities that undermine sustainable development.
>
> Gender equality, a key principle of the 2030 Agenda, can only be achieved if its barriers are fully recognised and tackled across the life course. Taking into account the impact of multiple discrimination, including the intersection of gender and age-based inequalities, is essential. The EU should ensure the language on multiple discrimination and intersectionality used in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 is reflected in its focus on gender equality in the Consensus on Development.
>
> For women, the accumulation of the inequalities experienced throughout their lives can lead to high levels of poverty, exclusion and abuse in older age. Older men also experience specific types of inequality due to their age and gender. The situation of older people of different genders remains invisible due to a lack of internationally comparable data and analysis for people beyond the age of 49.
> The 2030 Agenda recognises that efforts to achieve gender equality must go beyond equality in the labour market and be underpinned by social protection, access to healthcare and the recognition of unpaid care. Older women can be particularly vulnerable to losing their livelihoods due to their lower status, a lack of knowledge of their rights, and local laws that prevent them from inheriting property (World Economic Forum, Global Ageing: Peril or Promise?). For women who have been working in the home, in subsistence farming and in the informal economy, there is no security of income in old age in the absence of a social pension. Although many older people have care needs, others – particularly older women – often take on unpaid care roles for children and spouses freeing up younger people to join the labour force. Violence against older women was recognised by the Commission on the Status of Women in 2013 as an urgent concern and yet there is a startling lack of

data available because collection of data on physical and sexual violence against women usually stops at age 49, effectively excluding a quarter of the world's women. Target 5.2 promises to end violence against all women and girls. 5.4 commits 'to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work' through public services and social protection. The EU's plans for implementing goal 5 as well as relevant targets in other goals must include women aged 50 and over who make up nearly a quarter of the world's women. The EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 provides a useful framework for this work and now requires adequate and sustained implementation efforts.

The EU's efforts to better address inequalities should not be limited to gender equality but should support efforts to address all forms of discrimination prohibited under international law, including age, and support the full implementation of goal 10 to reduce inequalities within and among countries.

The 2030 Agenda makes specific references to ageing and older people across a number of goals and targets, leaving no doubt that people of all ages must be part of the response. Particularly useful is the commitment to disaggregating data made in target 17.18, including by age and by sex, in order to monitor progress and make visible the realities facing the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. The EU has repeatedly highlighted the importance of data disaggregation in the context of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda and stated that population dynamics must be mainstreamed across all the targets. Now the EU should play its role in ensuring this is implemented in practice, supporting governments to build capacity to implement target 17.18 in full and supporting the collection of data for all age groups in five-year cohorts.

The EU should recognise that the 2030 Agenda goals are inter-related and should not be chosen selectively or tackled in isolation, for example advocating for social protection floors which ensure income security at every stage of people's lives will help the EU to work towards achieving goals 3 and 5 in addition to goal 1. It should also make reference to the specific inequalities faced by particular groups and take steps to overcome these. The EU should ensure that it takes full account of multiple discrimination, including intersecting and cumulative discrimination, on the grounds of age, gender, disability and other characteristics in its new European Consensus on Development.

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?

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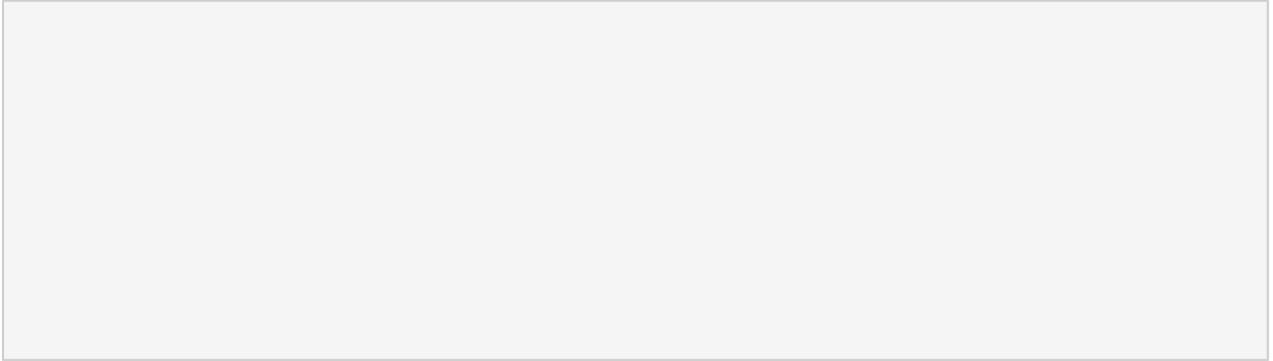
4.8 How can a revised Consensus on Development better harness the opportunities presented by migration, minimise the negative aspects of irregular migration on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and better address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement?

> It is critical that revised Consensus on Development addresses the impact of communities of outmigration of younger population groups. This is both a development and humanitarian concern.
>
> For humanitarian work, outmigration is a particularly important concern in places where pre-emergency outmigration results in older people becoming the majority of the population and living with limited support e.g. Eastern Ukraine.
>
> In contexts of emergency a reduction in family and community support can seriously undermine older people's ability to cope with disasters. In conflict situations families are often forced to flee long distances at very short notice. For older people who decide to flee, they face risks of separation during the journey. In Darfur in 2004, when huge numbers of people fled to urban centres, numerous older people reportedly arrived in internally displaced people (IDP) camps alone, having been separated from their families during the journey, or simply having stopped or been abandoned along the route due to physical exhaustion. Those arriving later also risked being excluded from registration and access to assistance (HelpAge International, Why ageing should be a concern for the World Humanitarian Summit p10-11, July 2015).
>
> The decision of older people to stay behind when others flee is equally common. Attachment to family or ancestral land, a sense that they are unable to re-start their lives elsewhere, or simply mobility challenges, are all reported as reasons for choosing not to flee in conflicts including Syria, Ukraine and South Sudan. Those left behind face a context of dwindling services and support and increased risks of violence, theft and abuse by armed groups. In Eastern Ukraine, data from HelpAge assessments shows that 46 per cent of assessed older people live alone, and 39 per cent are dependent on help from others for daily activities, creating significant challenges when such support structures become limited (HelpAge International, Why ageing should be a concern for the World Humanitarian Summit, July 2015). This challenge is becoming increasingly apparent in contexts like Syria where long term forced migration combined with the lower capacity of older people to flee, leads to an increased proportion of older people within the remaining population.
>
> The EC can better respond to migration in the context of global ageing, and minimise its negative effects on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, if it acknowledges the impact of outmigration on families and communities in countries of origin and invests in developing strategies and programmes that address this impact and build the resilience of older people who have stayed behind.

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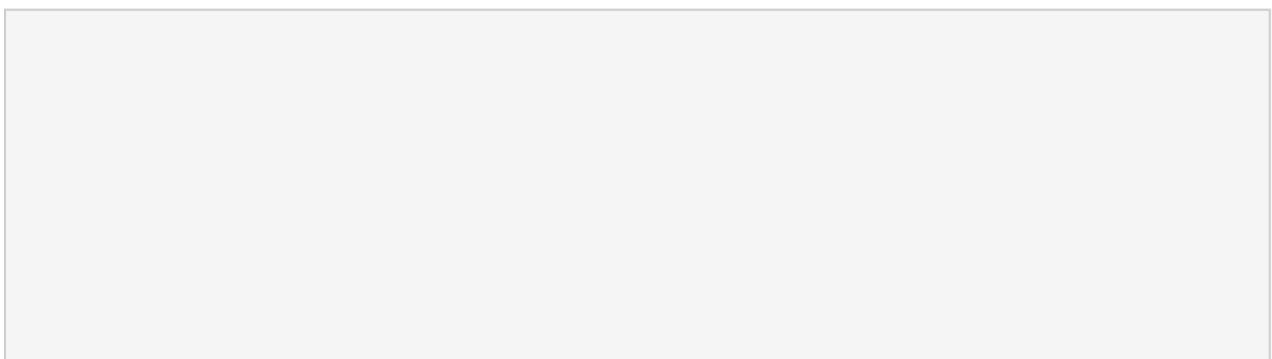
5.2 Given the evolving availability of other sources of finance and bearing in mind the EU's commitments on Official Development Assistance (e.g. Council Conclusions from 26 May 2015 on "A New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015", and inter alia, paragraphs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

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The EC must continue to provide funding though modalities that don't
discriminate against CSOs but take into consideration diversity and
contextual specificities.
The EC should continue to monitor its progress towards the effective use of
country-level CSO roadmaps as a tool for delegations to map out a strategy
for their interactions with CSOs.
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5.3 How can the EU better support partner countries in mobilising their own resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development?

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

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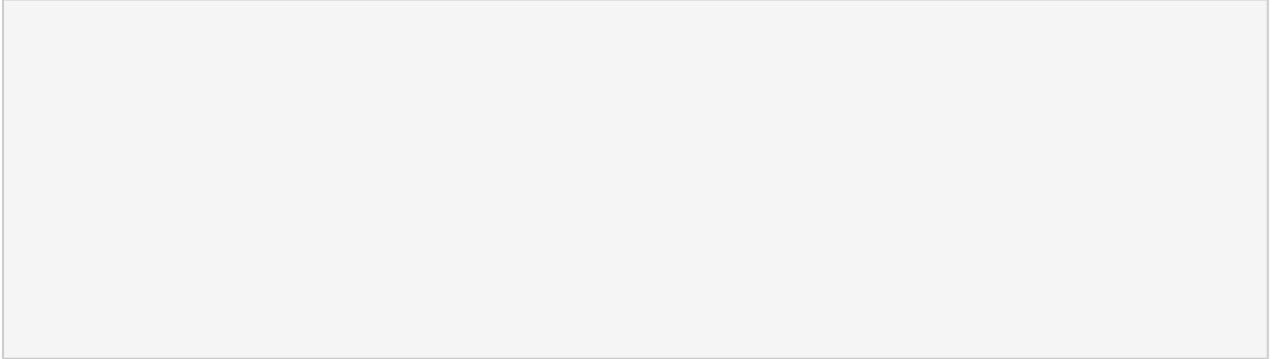
(6) The actors: making it work together

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.1 How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?
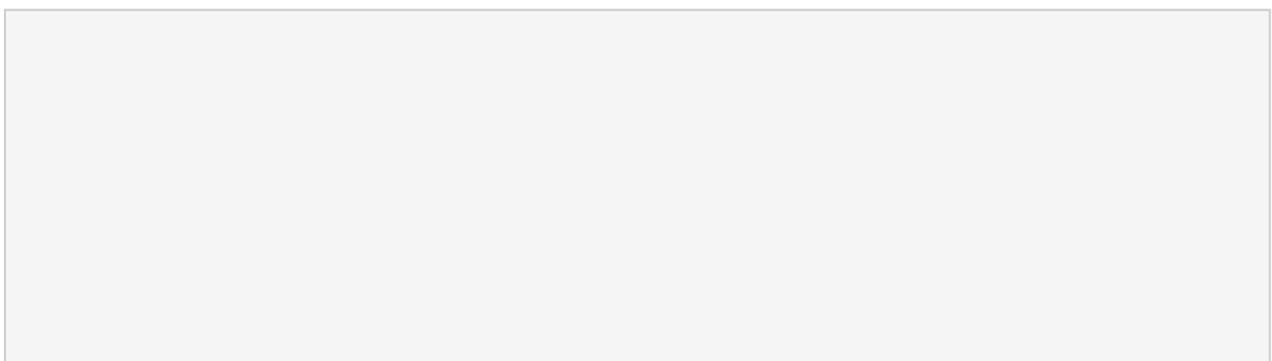
6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?

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?

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

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The EU has a critical role to play through all of its external action to the
development of comprehensive and inclusive national plans to support:
•        The continuation of open, transparent and regular dialogue with
civil society at both the programming and implementing levels;
•        Inclusion of the voice and participation of civil society across all
sectors, including older persons, in the work of the national SDG
coordinating units, which must function at the highest level of government;
•        Civil society feedback, including older persons, as part of
national, regional and global reviews with transparent processes in place to
facilitate this.
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6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

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

> The EC must continue to provide funding though modalities that don't discriminate against CSOs but take into consideration diversity and contextual specificities.
> The EC should continue to monitor its progress towards the effective use of country-level CSO roadmaps as a tool for delegations to map out a strategy for their interactions with CSOs.

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

(7) Keeping track of progress

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

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

The litmus test for the success of the SDGs is that all people across their life course and regardless of sex, disability, age, ethnicity or other factor will be reached. However, the policies needed to achieve the goals cannot be developed and their eventual success measured without increasing the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other statuses as outlined in target 17.18.

However, current data systems are not fit for purpose to deliver on target 17.18. In our ageing world, issues of critical concern for older persons are not easily captured or quantifiable using mainstream statistics. Data on older people is often not collected or not analysed. International surveys which will provide much of the data to measure progress against the SDGs often include upper age limits which exclude older men and women from measurement and where data is available on older people, it is often grouped into a single cohort of 60 or 65+. UN DESA is currently developing a specialised age specific survey for Africa. Initiatives such as this should be supported and replicated worldwide. Citizen generated data can also provide vital information to measure progress in leaving no one behind but requires investment.

Limitations in data gathering and analysis extend beyond development, to learning about the rights and needs of younger and older people in humanitarian situations. A 2011 Tufts University study found "almost no documented and published cases in which lead agencies […] collected sex- and age-disaggregated data properly, analysed the data in context and used those findings to influence programming" (http://www.alnap.org/resource/8144) A study from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre revealed that only 23 out of 53 countries and territories in 2015 in situations of internal displacements caused by violence and conflict have data disaggregated by sex and age, and even in those instances data was unevenly collected (http://www.internal-displacement.org/blog/2016/if-you-dont-measure-you-dont-know-the-invisible-plight-of-elderly-idps). Disaggregation across the life course will not only enable us to look at the experiences of specific people, it will illuminate the multiple and intersecting experiences of inequality and discrimination experienced by individuals, cutting across a 'vulnerable groups' approach and improving policy making as a result.

To be aligned with the ambition to leave no one behind, the renewed European Consensus must therefore include a strong statement relating to the need to invest in the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other statuses as outlined in target 17.18. Data must be disaggregated in a minimum of 5 year age cohorts across the life course in adulthood.

We further encourage the EU and members states to engage in dialogue with survey providers and funders, and engage in survey review processes to ensure that the international statistical system is adapting to respond to global population ageing.

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?

During the Agenda 2030 negotiation process, many European governments championed more robust accountability mechanisms to oversee implementation. The European Consensus on Development provides a useful opportunity to reconfirm Europe's commitment to this area.

Agenda 2030 was adopted by governments on behalf of the people they serve (P2, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). It is an Agenda "of the people, by the people, and for the people" (P52, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). Ensuring accountability of all actors must necessarily start with ensuring that citizens themselves are aware of their rights and responsibilities, and of the commitments that have been made. The EU has a strong role to play in ensuring that sufficient resources and energy are allocated to communicating the SDGs. This will require engaging with civil society actors to communicate with those hardest to reach including older people, for whom the conventional instruments of voice and empowerment – information and communication – are often out of reach. Older age cohorts, particularly older women, tend to have lower literacy levels than younger age groups while specific physiological changes associated with older age including deteriorating sight and hearing, and slower processing of information, can weaken communication.

The EU can further support the strengthening of accountability mechanisms at national level by investing in social accountability programming which strengthens the accountability relationship and also provide valuable citizen generated data on the quality of services to enhance official statistics.

The current European Consensus on Development provides useful language acknowledging the role of democratically elected citizen's representatives (paragraph 16 2006/C 46/01). Given that member states have acknowledged that national parliaments have an essential role to play "in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments" (Paragraph 45, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), the EU should further strengthen its work with parliaments, supporting them to play their role through enactment of legislation, adoption of budgets and holding governments to account. Parliaments have a particular role to play in ensuring that no one is left behind and the EU should support work to connect parliament to people left behind by the MDGs, including older persons and persons with disabilities among others.

Finally, the EU should further strengthen its commitment to Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), reflecting the far reaching nature of the agenda, to ensure that the EU's leadership role in global development is not undermined by its activities in other areas, including but not limited to international trade.

Making PCSD a reality should include integrating the voices of people from the global south, into EU policy making beyond development to ensure that the EU is accountable to people of all ages beyond its borders.

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

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Regular reviews on progress towards the SDGs should be based on a robust
national indicator process that captures data across the life course and is
disaggregated by age, sex, disability and other characteristics outlined in
target 17.18. The EU has a role to play in supporting partner countries in
the development of these frameworks, including through capacity building, and
in ensuring that their development takes full account of the commitment to
leave no one behind and the provisions of target 17.18 with regards to data
disaggregation.
Discussions on partner countries' progress reviews should be integrated into
the EU's wider external action, including in bilateral dialogues with partner
countries. The EU should encourage partner countries to engage with civil
society in preparation of reports and pay close attention to the commitment
to leave no one behind. The major groups and other stakeholders structure has
proven to be effective in  channelling wide ranging civil society voices at
the global level and may provide a useful blueprint for civil society
engagement regionally and nationally. Civil Society Roadmaps should also take
account of SDG reporting and the commitment to leave no one behind.
Civil society has a unique role to play in monitoring the commitment to leave
no one behind. The EU can and should invest in the capacity of civil society
actors to engage in review processes at national and local levels through
provision of funding to civil society organisations and networks and should
further champion the important role of civil society actors in global and
regional processes.
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