

## **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)

The World Bank Group

- 2.5 What type of stakeholder are you?

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

## 2.6 Please specify

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

- ☐ In one of the 28 EU Member States
- ☒ Other

## 2.8 Please specify

Washington D.C. b- USA

## (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?

In 2015, the global community made commitments to end extreme poverty by 2030 and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the same year, for the first time in history, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty was estimated to be below 10 percent globally. Yet, today 700 million people still live in extreme poverty.

The world today is faced with complex global challenges, including natural hazards and more severe extreme weather events caused by climate change, pandemics, forced displacement, terrorism, and global economic slowdown. It is now more obvious than ever how interdependent the world is, making it difficult to identify one single issue that will affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Major issues affecting a development country rapidly impact developed countries and vice-versa. Not addressing these issues risks that many millions of people will be trapped in poverty, and millions more will fall back into it.

We will have to address these challenges in the context of a sluggish and uncertain global economy; economic growth remains the most important driver of poverty reduction and affects the ability to mobilize resources for the implementation of the SDGs. This underscores the critical priority of pursuing growth-enhancing policies. Over the past two decades, economic growth has lifted more than 660 million people out of poverty and has raised the income levels of millions more, but too often it has come at the expense of the environment and poor communities. Through a variety of market, policy, and institutional failures, Earth's natural capital has been used in ways that are economically inefficient and wasteful, without sufficient reckoning of the true costs of resource depletion. The burning of fossil fuels supported rapid growth for decades but set up dangerous consequences, with climate change today threatening to roll back decades of development progress. At the same time, growth patterns have left hundreds of millions of people behind: 1.2 billion still lack access to electricity, 870 million are malnourished, and 780 million are still without access to clean, safe drinking water. Climate change threatens to drive 100 million more people into poverty in the next 15 years.

The importance of global trends to development and attainment of the 2030 Agenda goals depends on particular circumstances. It is often the combination of challenges (e.g. demography, poverty, conflict, climate in the Sahel) that will significantly affect implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and it is important to address all of them to promote sustainable development.

Concerted action is needed to address the global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, forced displacement, terrorism, and global economic slowdown, and to build resilience across the world.

Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today's population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations. It is efficient with resources and carefully planned to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for people, planet, and prosperity.

### 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 SDGs, a result of a collaborative and inclusive process, signal a real shift in the way people think about tackling development challenges to deliver a viable future for both the planet and its people. The SDGs consider the whole planet as a public good which needs to be administered in a strategic and concerted way, with long term vision. From oceans to forests, pandemics to pollution, what happens locally in one country can have huge repercussions on the wellbeing of its neighbors and on tomorrow's poverty. The SDGs were drafted and adopted by the totality of the world's countries, now trying to align their policies, plans and budgets with these goals. For the first time in history, both developed and developing countries are tackling the same development agenda.

Holistic, integrated approaches at the strategic, policy and implementation level, are therefore required to harness the opportunities and minimize the negative aspects of challenges at the global and local level.

At the same time it is important to recognize the range of issues affecting a particular country and adopt a flexible approach so that changing circumstances can be addressed. The EU is well placed to implement actions and programs that work across the political, security and development nexus. The opportunities, as well as the challenges, should be recognized.

For example, the threat of climate change should promote actions to develop climate resilient agriculture, infrastructure, communities and national institutions as well as exploitation of renewable energy sources. The adaptation to climate change needs to go hand in hand with disaster risk reduction and risk management efforts. The EU is one of the biggest donors of post-disaster reconstruction but more needs to be done on the prevention side in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development policies. Building resilience to natural disasters and growing extreme weather events should be recognized as development issue.

The interconnectedness of development issues and drivers of conflict should be recognized as well. For example, stresses of climate change can affect migration in particular countries or regions and so should be included in initiatives focused on migration. The EU has been at the forefront of bridging the gap between humanitarian and development actions to build resilience and should continue to do so. Building on this, it could more explicitly bring together actions to address security and development. Turning challenges into opportunities requires reliable data and evidence based decisions. Efforts of the EU in this respect are highly welcomed.

## (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?

The 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Agenda for Humanity are closely interconnected, making the need for coherent, cross-cutting strategies and implementation modalities more relevant than ever.

The magnitude, complexity and unpredictability of challenges require working in partnership, across mandates, building synergies and complementarities within and outside organizations, based on comparative advantages, following a results oriented approach.

Prevention and preparedness measures through increased resilience to shocks for countries and regions which are most exposed to fragility are of outmost importance.

Natural disasters and climate change have significant impacts on the most vulnerable populations and ecosystems around the world. As per a recent UNISDR report climate-related disasters now account for over 80% of disaster events globally and contribute enormously to economic losses and short and long-term population displacement triggered by disaster events. Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development planning can reverse the current trend of rising disaster impact.

It is therefore crucial that efficient and effective climate and disaster risk reduction and management is also mainstreamed in post-disaster recovery. Achieving resilience requires collaborative efforts from humanitarian, development and political actors, from the on-set of a crisis to the aftermath of a crisis or disaster.

Considerable contribution to this objective has been achieved through the 9th and 10th EDF Natural Disaster Facility and the GCCA Facility, line with the Implementation Plan of the EU Strategy for Supporting Disaster Reduction in Developing Countries, the EU Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries and the Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is important to ensure that disaster risk reduction remains a priority in the EU Consensus of Development and that it is outlined as a cross-cutting development priority.

#### 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?

Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today's population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations. It is efficient with resources and carefully planned to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for people, planet, and prosperity.

The three pillars of sustainable development – economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion – carry across all sectors of development, from cities facing rapid urbanization to agriculture, infrastructure, energy development and use, water availability, and transportation. Cities are embracing low-carbon growth and public transportation. Farmers are picking up the practices of climate-smart agriculture. Countries are recognizing the value of their natural resources, and industries are realizing how much they can save through energy and supply chain efficiency.

Integrating the principles of sustainable development across all sectors and regions is essential.

Ultimately, sustainable growth hinges on good growth policy, which aims to get prices right, fix markets, address coordination failures and acknowledge externalities.

Performance monitoring is crucial in this respect at the level of EU policies and at the level of individual countries both inside and outside the EU including through the development of national accounting indicators for comprehensive wealth that can help determine if growth is sustainable in the long run. Helping countries develop natural capital accounting practices also underpins the transition to greener growth that sustains environmental assets – water, land, air, ecosystems, and the services they provide – for future generations.

There is no single model for sustainable development. Strategies will vary across countries, reflecting local contexts. But all countries, rich and poor, have opportunities to make their growth greener and more inclusive. Collaboration to support greater economic, social and environmental resilience more broadly is important.

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

We welcome efforts of the EU to adjust its development framework to the implementation of the SDGs, highlighting many if not all the challenges in the areas of implementation, finance and data.

The review of the EU Consensus on Development offers an opportunity for the EU to embed and further advance its efforts to work on:

- Cross-cutting EU internal-external actions in recognition of the universality of the SDGs.
- The humanitarian-development nexus.
- The nexus between natural disasters, fragility and conflict.
- Expanding coordination and partnerships with global development actors to address global challenges.
- Boosting resilience and capacity of countries to overcome shocks.
- Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development planning.
- Identifying channels through which the EU aims to accomplish the attainment of the SDGs, like thought leadership, global convening, and country and/or multilateral engagement.

#### 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?

In order to deal with the complexity of the global challenges mentioned above, it is important to deliver consistency across all policy areas including political and socio-economic aspects, security concerns, inclusion and sustainability, humanitarian-development linkages, resilience building, etc.

#### 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 placed to implement actions and programs that work across the political, security and development nexus. In addition, it is well placed to work at the country level through policy dialogue to encourage structural changes and investment that will contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. In addition, the EU's convening power both inside and outside the EU is an important asset by itself and notably through partnerships to tackle challenges at the global and regional / country level.

#### 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?

As developing countries grow their economies and lift millions out of poverty, they may also experience growing inequality. Nations with a widening gap between those who can and cannot access opportunities in life have difficulty sustaining economic growth and social stability over time. To date, no country has managed to transition beyond a middle-income status while maintaining high levels of inequality.

To reduce inequality and promote shared prosperity, progress must be sustained over time and across generations. In many cases, this will require fiscal, social, and labour market reforms that help create a more inclusive and prosperous society.

The EU's role in promoting and supporting such reforms can be pivotal.

Equitable and inclusive growth needs to be integrated across all policy areas and programs, touching gender, education, governance and improved access to basic services and jobs, etc.

Supporting efforts to increase the availability of reliable and comparable data and analyses are important to design informed base policies and programs and be in place to assess how projects affect vulnerable groups.

The 2030 Agenda highlights the importance of social inclusion and equality in the new development framework. Economic growth is insufficient to reduce poverty. Rising inequalities require universal policies that consider the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, paying attention to exclusion based on gender, race or ethnicity. Social exclusion based on identity prevents some groups from accessing markets, services, and spaces, creating deep pockets of chronically poor groups that remain out of reach by national policies and programs.

The social inclusion framework sets the stage for an ambitious development agenda that is committed to leaving no one behind. This requires not only political will for reforms but also initiatives that advance the understanding of social exclusion and the poverty and social impacts of policies. Filling existing knowledge gaps is essential for developing effective and appropriate policy actions that (i) are tailored respectively to the social, cultural and political contexts, and (ii) respond to the needs and priorities of the poor and vulnerable. Governments often face complex challenges and trade-offs that require in-depth knowledge about the potential impacts of policies. Even well-designed policies may have unintended impacts that adversely affect vulnerable groups of the population.

In the last two decades, the world has narrowed the divide between men and women, especially in primary education and health. Yet critical gaps remain. Major challenges – from climate change to forced migration, natural disaster and pandemics, or the global jobs crisis – affect women and girls in specific ways. Yet they also have a unique role to play as drivers of growth and progress and powerful agents of change.

Gender norms and stereotypes constrain the opportunities of both women and men, girls and boys, through different pathways. Most inequalities based on gender have historically put females at a disadvantage. Yet in some domains, reverse gender gaps are appearing, such as in male mortality in some European and Central Asian countries and male school dropout rates in the Caribbean

and elsewhere.

Despite some significant gains, an estimated 62 million girls globally are out of school. Only 23% of low-income countries have achieved gender parity at primary level and 15% at secondary level. In contrast, 79% of middle- and high-income countries have achieved parity at primary level and 41% at secondary level. But issues of learning and quality of services remain, and in some regions, reverse gender gaps – whereby males are disadvantaged – are appearing at secondary and tertiary levels.

The credit gap for formal women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises is estimated at about US\$300 billion dollars globally. Nor is the gender gap in account ownership closing: in 2011, 47% of women and 54% of men had an account; in 2014, 58% of women had an account, compared to 65% of men – a 7% gap.

In many countries, women face legal and social barriers that prevent them from owning or inheriting assets, opening bank accounts, or accessing credit on their own. In 2013, 76 countries had laws on the books against domestic violence, up from 13 in 1995. Yet gender-based violence – perhaps the most extreme constraint on voice and agency – remains a global epidemic, affecting more than one in three women over the course of a lifetime. Women also hold roughly twice as many parliamentary seats as they did about 20 years ago, but that's still only about 22% of seats globally.

Integration of gender equality across policies and sectors covered by the new Consensus is therefore important. Gender equality needs to be addressed while addressing emerging challenges such as ageing populations, climate change, natural hazards, economic slowdown, and the global jobs crisis.

#### 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?

By 2030, an estimated 62 percent of the global poor will live in fragile and conflict-affected situations, jeopardizing the “leave no one behind” commitment.

Fixing the economic, political, and security problems that disrupt development and trap fragile states in cycles of violence requires strengthening national institutions and improving governance in ways that prioritize citizen security, justice, and jobs. Children living in fragile states are twice as likely to be undernourished and three times as likely to be out of school. And the effects of violence in one area can spread to neighbouring states and to other parts of the world, hurting development prospects of others and impeding economic prospects for entire regions. At the policy level, there is need for a strengthening the links and synergies between security and development. In this context, close coherence and synergy between the new EU Development Policy and EU’s coming Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy is important.

Adopting a broad human security approach would make a stronger contribution to the security of people and help address the root causes of fragility. The specific vulnerabilities of different groups of people affect their security and have to be recognized and addressed. Increased economic opportunities is a major factor in improving the security of people in all circumstances. Much greater attention should be placed on migration and displacement, and a development approach to forced displacement adopted.

We welcome the fact that the 2030 agenda provides a framework for supporting a range of key global trends envisaged to define a framework for collaboration in situations affected by fragility, conflict and violence (FCV).

The nexus between natural disasters, fragility and conflict should be highlighted here. Many natural disasters occur in fragile states and conflict affected situations. IPCC projections show that climate related disaster vulnerability will be felt most in fragile and conflict affected states (they will be least likely to be able to respond and adapt to climate change). It is important to strengthen the cross-fertilization between humanitarian, disaster and conflict management actors.

Strengthening partnerships with global actors such as the WBG, to maximize development impact in FCV settings would further leverage impact on the ground. This includes: (a) risk mitigation and analysis of root causes; (b) forced displacement; (c) recovery and post-conflict engagement; (d) jobs creation in FCV settings and (e) innovative financing solutions, including blending.

The gender dimension in the FCV agenda can be further highlighted and prioritized.

#### 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?

Migration and forced displacement are complex issues and drivers differ across countries. Policy responses and development solutions will vary from country to country and more data and research is necessary to fully understand the issues at hand. The WBG's starting point is its twin goals: eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity, measured as the income of the bottom 40%. While poverty is likely to fall to under 10% globally (GMR 2015/16), moving the world closer to the historic goal of ending poverty by 2030, absolute numbers remain high with almost a billion people still living in extreme poverty. Against the background of serious risks immediately ahead (natural disasters, conflicts, a slowing global economy) eliminating the last part of poverty still remains an ambitious goal. Migration is positive, as underscored by its inclusion in the SDGs (Goal #10). Migration and development are closely interlinked. International migration – the movement of people across international boundaries – has enormous implications for growth and poverty alleviation in both origin and destination countries. According to newly available census data, more than 247 million people were living outside of their countries of birth in 2013, and over 750 million migrate within their countries. In the coming decades, demographic forces, globalization and climate change will increase migration pressures both within and across borders. International migration boosts world incomes. By allowing workers to move to where they are more productive, migration results in an increase in aggregate output and income. Remittances generally reduce the level and severity of poverty and lead to: higher human capital accumulation; greater health and education expenditures; better access to information and communication technologies; improved access to formal financial sector services; enhanced small business investment; more entrepreneurship; better preparedness for adverse shocks such as droughts, earthquakes, and cyclones; and reduced child labour. Diasporas can be an important source of trade, capital, technology, and knowledge for countries of origin and destination. Officially recorded remittances to developing countries were \$427 billion in 2014, an increase of about 3.3% over the previous year. Global remittance flows, including those to high-income countries, are estimated at \$580 billion in 2014. Remittances sent home by migrants to developing countries are equivalent to more than three times the size of official development assistance (ODA). There is a need to have more open policies for migrants so they can move and have a better life. Migrants contribute to growth. However, many home countries do not capture this potential. It is important to help countries to capture private initiatives in the country of origin and design financial instruments that go beyond remittances and savings. Forced displacement today is a global problem. It tends to be protracted and has significant costs, necessarily over the short term and potentially over the long term. However, under certain circumstances it can also result in long term gains to both displaced persons and their hosts. Forced displacement is fundamentally a development issue with social, economic and fiscal implications. This requires a policy and mind-set change

from short-term thinking to a long term comprehensive approach. Life improvements for those living in protracted displacement and support for lasting solutions can only come about by addressing holistically: housing, livelihoods, service access, inclusion, resilience and governance. The challenge of forced displacement is an integral part of the development agenda and should be mainstreamed across the revised EU Consensus for Development. In this context the EU is well placed to support bilaterally and through multilateral partnerships a shift from short to long-term policies and approaches to forced displacement. This includes helping governments assess the economic, social and security consequences of different short and long-term policy options available to make the right policy choices. A disciplined and systematic approach on the humanitarian-development nexus is needed. Engaging at scale in support of refugees and across all country income categories is a challenge that requires joining forces at global level. Coherence of actions with interlinked global challenges such as climate change and disaster risk reduction should be sought.

## (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?

Data: To achieve the SDGs we need a more rigorous and systematic approach on improving data. We need better data to diagnose problems, design policies and programs for local conditions, monitor progress, make mid-course adjustments, and scale up the approaches that work. Data and research has to be accessible, useable, and relevant to government policymakers and development practitioners.

Good data is a precondition for meaningful conversations about country ownership to ensure coherence of policy design and monitoring across all 17 SDGs. Promoting greater alignment of agency programs around identified priorities can improve implementation. Sharing knowledge across countries can help unlock new solutions, while using data to allocate resources efficiently to high-impact programs helps ensure that public expenditures are wisely spent.

Open Data can help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and population demographics. These insights can inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues.

**Financing:** ODA is still important – especially for the poorest nations – but it is not enough to reach the SDGs. We need to leverage scarce ODA to meet the SDG targets. Key actions include the mobilization of domestic resources, reduction of illicit financial flows, and provision of policy advice to help countries attract private investment. We estimate that developing countries could increase domestic resource mobilization anywhere from 2 to 4% of their GDP. And of course, financing can also help nations shift policies, for instance toward renewables and away from coal and fossil fuels.

**Delivery & Monitoring:** We need to build a shared commitment to the SDGs at the country level. At the same time, we need to help countries leverage global partnerships to deliver on these commitments. Existing partnerships must be strengthened, new partnerships must be formed – and the private sector must be an integral part of new arrangements. We need to tackle threats at their source, especially those that affect the entire planet. We also need to manage risk and uncertainty, while scaling up support for innovative social protection programs for those just above or close to the poverty line.

Interlocutors often express a need for greater awareness of the SDGs goals; the right incentives for different actors, in particular the private sector; and more learning from experiences of early implementation, including south-south cooperation and “twining” technical experts with countries who need their help.

Performance monitoring is crucial in this respect at the level of EU policies and at the level of individual countries both inside and outside the EU including through the development of national accounting indicators for comprehensive wealth that can help determine if growth is sustainable in the long run. Helping countries develop natural capital accounting practices also underpins the transition to greener growth that sustains environmental assets for future generations.

**Country engagement:** One way to integrate this work on the SDGs is through engagement with countries on their national planning. Working together, we can help nations meet their national SDG goals, and we can build more durable global public goods to address long-term problems such as climate change, fragility, pandemics, and stunting.

The private sector must also be at the center of any sustainable development model, and private capital is crucial to achieve the SDGs. Research shows that over the past decade, 90% of jobs in developing nations were created by

the private sector – and good jobs are by far the most effective way to help people escape poverty. Attracting private capital is also essential to ensure women's economic empowerment; to invest in low-carbon growth paths; to achieve stability in fragile situations; and to widen the tax base to finance public service delivery.

In terms of helping partner countries to mobilize other financing for development, particularly from the private sector, it would be important to use ODA to attract private sector financing by, e.g. supporting project preparation in agriculture or infrastructure. Lack of financing for project preparation is a major bottleneck in attracting private capital in poor countries. Working with partner countries to design PPPs would be as helpful as the use of other instruments such as guarantees. Another component of private sector engagement is remittances.

All these efforts combined will significantly scale up the resources available to support SDG attainment. Not only will they provide resources, but they will directly impact the SDGs, such as through job creation and equitable growth. However, resource mobilization is insufficient on its own. It needs to be supported by corresponding policies and institutions which ensure that it is inclusive and equitable.

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?

In terms of focus, focusing EU official development assistance in poorest countries and to reach the most vulnerable could be further explored. Challenges such as stunting and malnutrition could be further recognised. In Middle Income Countries, it is additionally important to focus on reducing inequalities and to improving the very low human development indicators. Emphasis on addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility and how best to contribute to security and resilience are welcome. Earmarking sizable budget allocations for fragility/volatility/resilience could perhaps be considered.

There is scope for new approaches, using development assistance to leverage resources from the private sector, providing guarantees, adopting blending arrangements, and expanding use of PPPs. Sharing of good practices and reforms that have encouraged expansion of the private sector, as well as EU assistance to meet outstanding constraints, such as poor provision of energy and infrastructure, would also be important in encouraging private investment and opportunities. Deep reforms that draw private sector investment and unlock the potential of local entrepreneurs and create good jobs should be further targeted.

Collaboration and synergies with International Financial Institutions so as to crowd in knowledge, expertise and experience on the ground should be further sought. In addition, any EU ODA should be risk informed in order to strengthen countries' resilience and in turn to build financial preparedness if necessary.

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

A more integrated approach between ODA and domestic resource mobilization could be explored under the revised EU consensus on development. ODA accounts for approximately six-tenths-of-one-percent (0.6 percent) of developing countries' GDP. Yet many experts say countries could increase their taxes to GDP ratios by 2 percent through better domestic resource mobilization – which would be triple the amount of ODA now going to developing countries. This is possible because tax-to-GDP ratios are between 10 to 20 percent in low-income countries, compared to 30 to 40 percent in OECD countries. Efficient mobilization and management of public resources allows governments to be more inclusive and comprehensive in delivering services. It is also critical for achieving sustainable development.

The second and related area in domestic resource mobilization is illicit financial flows, which reduce government revenue and thus the resources available for development. These illicit financial flows include fraud, tax evasion, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Helping countries measure illicit flows, prevent the behaviours that generate illicit funds, stop the flow of illicit funds, and recover stolen assets is important. These illicit flows are symptomatic of other institutional weaknesses, such as vested interests and weak transparency and accountability. Curbing these flows requires strong international cooperation by all governments, in partnership with the private sector and civil society.

Given the urgent global needs related to poverty, inequality, and forced displacement, we need additional revenue; we need to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse; and we need to use these resources wisely, and efficiently. This will give the global community the necessary tools to help millions of people to lift themselves out of poverty.

Climate change and natural hazards can have a serious impact on economic growth and investment as well. To preserve economic growth, the EU should support their partner countries in building financial resilience, which will help them mitigate the socio-economic, fiscal, financial and physical impacts of disasters. In general there is an opportunity for enhanced coordination among external development financiers to support country priorities, including climate and disaster resilience and reduction of fiscal deficits.

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

The development of new financing instruments leveraging other (non-Official Development Assistance) sources of finance should be considered. In addition, new financing instruments for not only LICs, but also MICs impacted by crises could be further explored. Building financial resilience can help to mitigate socio-economic, fiscal, financial and physical impacts of shocks. The increase of domestic resource mobilization and better leverage of private sector financing should be further highlighted. The catalytic use of ODA should be further enhanced leveraging the comparative advantages of the EU and International Financial Institutions. Consider new definition of LICs/MICs beyond the GDP per capital categorization. A new approach could include: a) Poor fragile states and regions affected by conflict/volatility; b) Poor, but stabile states: and c) Emerging economies.

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?

Further transferring policy coherence efforts in the EC's decision making process and program implementation on the ground (including EC managed interventions or interventions managed through other partnering Organizations). Greater coherence would allow for development funds to be leveraged more effectively and ultimately lead to better outcomes. Further reflecting an enhanced humanitarian-development nexus in the management and implementation of relevant actions across thematic /geographical DGs.

## (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?

The EU could strengthen its partnership with civil society and others by engaging in greater outreach and consultation, both in Brussels and in partner countries. Overall, simplified processes and procedures would help encourage partnerships with local actors and the private sector, increase efficiency in the delivery of support, notably in crisis situations.

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

Fostering the private sector to requires a comprehensive strategy to address the numerous challenges and market failures that prevent investments in the world's poorest countries and regions. These can include the small and informal nature of markets in many countries, large skills and knowledge gaps, weak macroeconomic and regulatory environments, weak financial sectors, and large public deficits that soak up available financing.

Foreign investors are also often reluctant to engage in the world's poorest countries because of perceived political risks, the small size of markets limiting economies of scale and discouraging competition; macroeconomic and regulatory uncertainty making business risky; high transport costs and infrastructure bottlenecks elevating production costs; country risks affecting banks' risk weighted assets that constrain available finance; and information asymmetries and coordination problems making pioneering investments difficult.

Our experience shows that in the world's most challenging economies, significant resources are often required to improve the investment climate, build government capacity, upgrade critical institutions, and address sector-specific challenges to encourage private investment. It is also necessary to build local private sector capacity in finance; environmental, social, and governance issues, integrity due diligence; skills development and management; strengthening upstream initiatives to unlock investments. Such upstream initiatives require broad partnerships across the range of development partners.

Once sufficient capacity has been built, it is crucial to de-risk investments and mobilize capital. Such de-risking can be done through the use of innovative financial instruments, including through using public resources for guarantees, first loss instruments, and local currency loans. Reinsurance deployed at scale can also help de-risk markets and encourage pioneering investments in the developing economies, both at the project and portfolio level. Blending and concessional financial tools can further be used to reduce risk, improve project-level bankability, and improve affordability of service.

## 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?

Overall, simplified processes and procedures, and a results based approach, would help encourage partnerships with other development actors and the private sector, increase efficiency in the delivery of support, notably in crisis situations. There is generally need for greater coordination between EU, bilateral donors and multi-lateral financial institutions. A synergistic approach by development partners could limit redundancies among individual programs, allow for the capitalization of results and increase impact.



#### 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 could make a major contribution to development and implementation of national plans for the 2030 Agenda by supporting statistical capacity, particularly in African countries. This is a major stumbling block. The EU could join with other partners, including the WBG, UNDP, UNECA, AFDB and AUC to help develop and strengthen statistical systems and standardize harmonize instruments.

The EU is well placed to encourage and support:

- Country-level analysis (likely and achieved progress in SDGs and their determinants) and consequently support policy and financing options to accelerate progress.
- Cross-country assessment, sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt, notably in countries of similar per-capita incomes.
- Assessment and deployment of options for accelerated progress – what can a country and its government do to increase fiscal space for the SDG agenda and raise the effectiveness of its policies.

Countries need to consider in-depth country-specific knowledge, prioritize and sequence their efforts. As part of this, it is important to strike a balance between steps to support immediate growth accelerations and investments in education and other areas that only can promise payoffs over the long haul.

The need to improve data at the country and cross-country level is urgent. Please also see answer provided under question 7.3.

#### 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?

A stronger cooperation in analytical work and tracking development outcomes at the global, regional and national level could be further explored. Working in partnership based on the comparative advantages leveraged would increase effectiveness and impact on the ground.

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?

Open data:

Open Data can help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and population demographics. These insights can inform national priorities and help determine the most effective paths for action on national issues.

Open Data is a key resource for:

- Fostering economic growth and job creation. Open Data can help launch new businesses, optimizing existing companies' operations, and improve the climate for foreign investment. It can also make the job market more efficient and serve as a resource in training for critical technological job skills.
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness of public services. Open Data can help strengthen healthcare systems by connecting patients to providers; promote education and ongoing learning; and improve food security on both a large and small scale.
- Increasing transparency, accountability and citizen participation. Open Data plays a critical role in improving governance by exposing and preventing mismanagement and corruption. It also helps ensure environmental sustainability through transparent data that can help reduce pollution, conserve natural resources and build resilience to climate change.
- Facilitating better information-sharing within government. Open Data can help improve cities and urban infrastructure. It can also improve resilience to disasters and ensure that essential resources will be deployed effectively in emergency situations.

Measuring progress on the SDGs:

Open Data can help ensure that plans to achieve the SDGs are evidence-based, and that their outcomes are measurable. The SDGs are being launched with an emphasis on collecting data that will be extensive and specific enough to serve these needs.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals set an ambitious agenda for progress on the world's most challenging problems by 2030. To meet those goals, countries will need to draw upon all the resources at their disposal. Open Data has the potential to be a universal resource to help achieve and measure the SDGs. As countries around the world work to meet these goals, sharing Open Data and the methods for using it will accelerate progress and help to make the SDGs possible.

Continuing to work in partnership in this context is welcomed.

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

The EU's role in ensuring the accountability of actors involved in implementation of the 2030 Agenda goes well beyond its role in common standards ensured at the EU level and EU funds spending, extending to a key role in support of countries efforts to ensure accountability, transparency and efficiently.

SDG 16, asks us to promote "just, peaceful and inclusive societies" by building "effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

In this context support of the EU in the following areas would be of key importance:

- Supporting countries to build strong governance. From our work at the World Bank Group, we know there is a strong and positive correlation between the quality of institutions and a country's prosperity. Chronic mismanagement and corruption, on the other hand, demoralize citizens and undermine their trust in the state. Corruption deepens poverty as the poor are more vulnerable to exploitation and bribery in return for services like health care and education. The effects of corruption are personal and devastating. People become trapped in poverty or stuck without realizing their potential. That's why building civic trust to encourage inclusive growth is so critical.
- Support countries to develop open and transparent budgeting, to improve development outcomes along with, citizen participation. Citizens' demands must be included, and policymakers must be accountable to them. This is as important as oversight of budget execution by formal accountability institutions. An open process leads to a more efficient and effective use of public resources while building trust between citizens and their governments. Studies all point to the fact that participatory budgeting contributes to development gains.
- Support countries to develop efficient public procurement systems: for governments to get most big priorities done -- whether it's building roads and dams or putting medicines in clinics and books in schools - some kind of large financial transaction is usually needed. Given the amounts of money involved - often 15 to 25% of a country's GDP - procurement is prone to corruption. Procurement reform can save money and get services delivered more quickly, which, in turn, builds civic trust and lifts citizens' morale.
- Citizen identification: In many countries, the lack of legal identity documentation makes it difficult to open bank accounts, register land or receive social-assistance payments.

### 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's role in shaping the 2030 Agenda has been key, and can continue so in its implementation.

The 2030 Agenda is very comprehensive: its 17 goals and 169 targets cover economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. It is also very ambitious: the general spirit of the targets under each goal is that everyone should benefit in full from the fruits of development across all areas (be it electricity, health, or education) and that, accordingly, no one should be left behind. Inspired by these ambitions, individual countries now face the tough challenge of translating this agenda into feasible (but still ambitious) development plans and identifying policies that reflect their initial conditions and priorities.

The EU is well placed to encourage and support:

- Country-level analysis (likely and achieved progress in SDGs and their determinants) and consequently support policy and financing options to accelerate progress.
- Cross-country assessment, sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt, notably in countries of similar per-capita incomes.
- Assessment and deployment of options for accelerated progress - what can a country and its government do to increase fiscal space for the SDG agenda and raise the effectiveness of its policies.

Countries need to consider in-depth country-specific knowledge, prioritize and sequence their efforts. As part of this, it is important to strike a balance between steps to support immediate growth accelerations and investments in education and other areas that only can promise payoffs over the long haul.

The need to improve data at the country and cross-country level is urgent.

## Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu

---