

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)

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

- 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

Local Authorities organization

* 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

Morocco

(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?

Climate Change is number 1

Changing in geography and depth of poverty, number 2

Security, number 3

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

The EU should be at the fore in implementing the Paris Agreement. The commitments on mitigation can be met since many EU countries have already started implementing policies that address the reduction of green gas emissions. On the adaptation, efforts should be made to implement the provisions of article 8 of the Paris Agreement and in particular its paragraph 4. The EU should also play a key role in the implementation of the Technology as well as the Financial Mechanisms of the Agreement. With regard to the changing of geography, EU should recognize that the bulk of the world population and economy is shifting from North to South, calling for the reconsideration of its strategy in partner countries, particularly the neighboring Africa. Addressing the development challenge of Africa is both an economic and security issue for the EU, and at the same time, will participate to curve the depth of poverty. Security in that regard should be look at in a broader sense which encompasses the response to conflicts and migration crisis, but also the deep roots of the crisis, which is creation and wealth and jobs, and addressing indecent inequalities within and outside the EU, all of that, without sacrificing the EU values of democracy and respect to human rights.

(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 key resolve of the Agenda 2030 is to make sure that "no one is left behind". This requires that the implementation of the Agenda 2030 has impact where people live, at the territorial level; hence the request by local authorities supported by the international community, to "localize the SDGs" in order that they are owned by people at local level, thus ensuring their expected impact on the different communities. EU is expected to drive this movement towards localizing the SDG, given its long experience on decentralized governance and local self government. It is also at the level of cities and territories that one can encourage production and consumption behavior aiming at favoring the transition towards more energy efficient and low carbon sustainable development, and thus ensuring ensuring resilience. The launching of an important campaign mobilizing local authorities across the world to adopt the principles of the EU Covenant of Mayors on Climate change and Energy could be an important contribution in addressing the climate change agenda.

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

The EU needs more coherence in the integration of its policies, including its development policy framework. There seems to be silo approaches when addressing trade issues, security issues and development issues. This lack of consistency tends to confuse the messages that the EU wants to put across. This is the more true when one considers the cooperation dimension of the EU development agenda. The Agenda 2030 offers a good framework for building this coherence. It insists on the need to take a long term perspective in order to resolve daunting issues in a sustainable way. The other manner to bring coherence is to work based on a territorial approach. By so doing all dimensions of development are better taken care of since places are where development is witnessed in all its dimensions. We strongly suggest to add the cultural dimension in which the EU values are grounded.

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

The EU development policy framework needs first and foremost, clarity. It is critical to explain how the development policy framework is aligned with the trade policy, the security and peace policy, and the human rights and governance policy. It is also important to clarify how the EU wishes to cooperate in the changing geopolitical scope of the world. The emergence of regional groupings that mirror the EU architecture is worth considering as building blocks of EU development policy framework. This is particularly true in the case of Africa, where the African Union is the legitimate body representing the interests of the continent and its mouthpiece in international negotiations. It is therefore essential that more attention is paid in the EU development policy framework to entering into structured political partnerships with regional groupings like the African Union, supporting their strengthening and integration.

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?

It would be good that the EU define a partnership agreement with Africa around the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Climate Change Agenda. Around these agendas, there is room to address both the security and migration issues as well as growth, private sector development, access to minerals and other natural resources, access to market; but at the same time sustaining the deepening of the culture of democracy and rule of law; the deliberate condition being that the EU development policy does not betray EU values of solidarity, respect to human rights and to the diversity of our world, and respect to dignity for all. But a partnership with Africa request that Africa is treated as one and indivisible, meaning that the African countries on the Mediterranean border are not cut out of Africa, the same way that the European countries on the Mediterranean border are not cut out of Europe. This will require the revision of the different EU cooperation financial instruments used for the cooperation with Africa.

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 greatest added value of the EU as a development partner is the political dialogue with partner countries and regions, since the EU is the main ODA provider. This gives it a critical role in supporting the institutional building in partner countries and regions, and at the same time a leverage for the implementation of development programs. In particular its grant funds can be used not only to capacitate public stakeholders to improve on their management capacity of projects and programs, but also to raise private money in the framework of public/private partnerships (PPPs). The EU interventions are particularly adapted for long term engagement, which calls for the inscription of such engagement in a political partnership with partner countries or regions. This long term engagement is particularly important for LDCs and fragile states.

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 definition and targets of the SDGs are sufficiently accurate to be a point of reference to addressing inequalities, including gender inequality. Just follow the provision thereof.

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?

Security is in sync with the capacity to earn a living and enjoy human rights in all their dimensions. The root causes of conflicts and fragility are embedded in the refusal of situations where one's dignity is scorned, when there is no hope in particular for the youth, and when and where the public authorities do not provide needed protection to citizen or are not in the capacity to do so. Here also, understanding the contexts in which the EU operates and taking a political economic approach to understand this context should be the preferred entry point for analyzing the root causes of conflicts and fragility and identifying the winners and losers in a given context. It should then possible to take a firm stand based on EU values, to support those losers so that they are capacitated to become more resilient.

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 is a historical process and is spread out across the world. Migrants are often painted negatively, in particular in EU countries. These countries have just forgotten that most of them are constituted by migrants that settled there some even very recently. The capacity to integrate migrants and give them rights equivalent to those given to their own citizen has been the characteristic of EU countries, in line with EU values of solidarity and equal dignity for all. But the recent trend of forced migrations from the Middle East due to the consequences of wars in that region; or those from Africa stemming from the consequences of poverty and economic difficulties has fueled a feeling of adversity against migration on recent years. the tendency to make entry to Europe very complicated has created a market of irregular migration that nurture human trafficking, thus creating a breach in the respect of EU values. The root causes of migration and forced displacement are known: lack of development perspective and hope to earn a living where one lives; political crisis and wars caused by mal governance or external interventions. The solutions are also very clear: Development, Democracy and Good Governance for all. Can Europe really wants to take the lead to truly champion these solutions across the world?

(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?

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda insisted rightfully on the need to base any sustainable development firstly on domestic financial resources, including public national and local financial resources. Mobilizing public financial resources requests that everybody pays its fair share of national and local taxes. The fact is that in many developing countries, tax avoidance and tax evasion, notably from multinational companies, hamper the capacity of partner countries to raise domestic resources at the level expected. EU policies should therefore endeavor to support joint action with partner countries aiming at guaranteeing that everybody, including multinational, pays its fair share of taxes. For the multinational companies, the payment should be done in the places they produce or sell their goods, and not exclusively at the headquarters. This issue of tax avoidance and tax evasion is a common one and the EU would be better inspired to be at the fore of defending this agenda at the international level, following the position taken by the EU Parliament of this issue.

Sustainable development finance implies also climate finance resulting from the Paris Agreement. The EU should set an example by releasing its share of the 100 billions pledged for Climate Fund which is expected to start operating from 2020. In between, the EU could take initiative to inform better on the Climate Finance mechanism and train partner countries stakeholders to prepare paper work to access climate finance.

The 2030 Agenda offers a lot of opportunities for private sector investments, provided that the regulations in place do not impede all categories of private sectors, including domestic SMEs, to take up these opportunities.

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?

We said that context matters and that there is no blue-print. Therefore EU ODA might be used differently in different contexts depending on the situations we are faced with.

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

Refer to 5.1 above

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

Remember, the SDGs are universal. Their implementation requires a global partnership that should include all the countries irrespective of their level of development. Innovative forms of partnerships could be envisioned, such as "circular migration" to turn globalization into an opportunity, whereas it is often perceived as a threat.

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

The New EU Consensus gives a good momentum for policy coherence for development. There are few guiding elements to take into account: inclusiveness (leave no one behind); sustainability (transition to low carbon model of production and consumption with a long term perspective); justice (aggressively address inequalities within and between countries); alignment (security, peace, human rights, trade and development policies); solidarity (based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility); tolerance (recognizing and accepting the differences between historical contexts, governance systems, and paths to development). Respect to these elements can help define more coherent policies, including for 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?

The only way EU can strengthen its partnerships is through the adoption of a multi-stakeholders dialogue approach, as exemplified by the Policy Forum on Development initiated by the Commission under the auspices of DEVCO/B2. It is suggested that such arrangements are duplicated at the level of partner countries under the auspices of the EU delegations, and at the level of each regional grouping, for example in Africa under the Joint Africa Europe Strategy (JAES).

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

A lot has been already said on private sector involvement in the "Agenda for Change". What is problematic is the over focus on the international private sector, for which most of existing EU instrument provide support, whereas very few attention is paid to domestic private sector, and especially SMEs, in partner countries. Access to funding, access to market, access to technology are the main difficulties the private sector in partner countries encounters.

Private sector investment for sustainable development requires mature banking systems and financial markets, that can back the private sector investments with funding; it also requires updating of the performance capacity of private companies, in particular the SMEs, which in turn is for a lasting and long term effort on capacity building for private sector development. The capacity building should also target the creation of an enabling environment for private sector development, including legislation, infrastructure and equipment, commercial and branding tools, etc.

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

The EU should initiate Join Work Program addressing the different SDGs, and accept to enter into basket fund systems in partner countries in order to bring more coherence, coordination, alignment, and partner countries ownership. The mechanisms thereof requires better coordination between EU Commission and EEAS.

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

EU should start by supporting the localization of the SDGs at the territorial level, based on which a need assessment is defined. Following what a multi-stakeholders forum should be organized with the support of the EU delegations to arrive at a agreed mechanism to aggregate the different needs and screen them against the national development perspective to arrive to a comprehensive and inclusive national plan. This process should be initiated the soonest if we got to meet the 2030 targets of the SDGs.

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?

Here there should be a real conversation on the implementation of the subsidiarity principle within the EU. The identity crisis the EU is going through shows that this conversation has not yet taken place honestly. People witness time and again a sort of competition between the EU and the Member States and between EU Members States themselves when it comes to development cooperation with partner countries. It should be accepted that the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is now the agreed universal mechanism for poverty eradication and sustainable development that provides a good departing point for more coherence, complementarity and coordination of actions between the EU and Member States

One way of addressing the issue of overlap between EU and its Member States is to try to follow the subsidiarity principle, and accept to respect the following division of responsibilities:

1. Follow up on the implementation of the SDGs at local level: Local Authorities and their associations in the EU Member States and Partner Countries, in collaboration with coalitions of Civil Society Organizations of both sides; reporting to the Member States and Partner Countries national governments;
2. Follow up on the implementation of the SDG at the national level through the national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: national governments of Member States and Partner Countries; reporting to the UN through the SDGs reporting mechanism;
3. Follow up of the implementation of the SDGs at the regional level: EU responsibility, which includes: political dialogues and partnerships with regional political institutions; investments in regional infrastructure and equipment; cooperation on regional trade and finance issues; cooperation on regional peace and security issues; cooperation on migration issues; cooperation on global public goods issues, etc.; reporting to the UN and to the joint political dialogue body established between the EU and the respective Partner Regions.

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

The only way to be effective is: 1. care of the impact of EU development cooperation on people on the ground, which calls the localization of EU cooperation programs and projects; 2. take a long term perspective in the definition of EU development cooperation programs, to avoid ad hoc changing agendas and ensure institutional building as well as the deepening of the rule of law; 3. make sure EU development cooperation translates into the improvement of the living conditions of people in partner countries and contributes to progress in human rights and liberties for all;

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?

See 6.3 above

(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 very complicated monitoring mechanism set for the Millennium Development Goals did not help much in the realization of the MDGs. One of the lessons learnt was that unless the goals are localized, there is no way one can legitimately verify, based on national statistics, that the goals are really met. Hence the insistence on the need to have localized data collected at the local level under the responsibility of local authorities. Hence the need to keep the monitoring system as simple as possible, so that the collection of data is made by people without sophisticated knowledge. What needs to be done is the system of aggregation from the local level to the national, regional and global levels. The monitoring system should also serve as not only a statistical tool but rather an advocacy and mobilizing tool. This is why the monitoring system should be discussed mainly with the associations of local authorities with the support of the UN and EU services in charge of monitoring. By so doing, we would ensure the link between the monitoring system and implementation on the ground, and not only for statistical reports on the shelves and university libraries.

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 issue of accountability refers to responsibility. Who accounts to who? Who is responsible of what? Leaving the question open or loose as often does not help much, except to say that the issue was mentioned and therefore addressed.

Accountability should be established at all levels. At the local level, local authorities should be held accountable by the citizen and civil society organizations on the delivery of the SDGs. Local authorities should hold the national governments accountable about the allocation of national resources for them to be able to deliver the SDGs to the population. National governments should hold the international community on the international transfer of financial and other resources so that they can be up to the expectations in the delivery of SDGs in their respective countries. The international community should set up at the UN, a global repository of the information stemming from the above monitoring systems with a distinction between local authorities monitoring system and national governments monitoring systems. The global repository should also be the place where methodologies are refined and interpellations are made. All stakeholders should hold the private sector accountable on their interventions for the implementation of the SDGs. Through such encased mechanism should we have a robust approach for the follow up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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

The mechanism is described in 7.2 above;

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