

## **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Public Consultation on revising the European Consensus on Development**

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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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

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- \* 2.1 Received contributions may be published on the Commission's website, with the identity of the contributor. Please state your preference with regard to the publication of your contribution.

Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under [Regulation 1049/2001](#) on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In such cases, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable [data protection rules](#).

- ☐ 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)

SDG Watch

- 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

The SDG Watch Alliance is an EU-level cross-sectoral CSO alliance, currently comprising around 70 NGOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors. Its goal is to hold governments to account within the framework they have committed to by accepting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals).

As highlighted in a recent open letter to the European Commission President Juncker, SDG Watch Europe believes that Europe must lead by example and truly move beyond 'business as usual' to respond to the 2030 Agenda's call for transformative change. To do so, the EU must coherently implement the whole 2030 Agenda – both internally and externally.

If the EU is to play its part in addressing the very serious global challenges we face, it must adopt an integrated and coherent approach covering its internal and external policies and actions. Therefore, SDG Watch Europe calls on the European Commission to draw up its 2030 Agenda implementation strategy and to launch a transparent and inclusive public consultation on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within and outside the EU.

At the same time, the SDG Watch Europe welcomes the current consultation on the European Consensus on Development as a first opportunity to highlight the connections (and the necessary coherence) between EU internal and external policies.

Due to lack of timing, not all members of SDG Watch could give proper input to this public consultation.

## \* 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

Belgium

## (3) Context: why a change is needed

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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?

According to the SDG Watch Europe, all trends mentioned above are relevant. Having agreed to numerous commitments, the EU should work to address the wide array of these challenges, which are all interlinked, without prioritising one over another. The EU has the responsibility to contribute to all of the international agreements and action plans to which it has committed to, including the principles contained in the 2030 Agenda such as “leaving no-one

behind” and “respect for planetary boundaries”. SDG watch would highlight the following challenges:

Growing inequalities both at internal and external level of the European Union  
Persistence of gender inequality and attacks on women’s rights in Europe and worldwide. Despite some progress, women’s rights are under attacks in all regions of the world, and women’s economic independence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and autonomy is challenged by new and renewed forms of oppressions, considering rising conservatism and conservative politics regarding issues dealing with family, gender equality, sexuality and reproductive health, both within and beyond EU, would be good to add SRHR. Gender equality is both a stand-alone goal of Agenda 2030, and a key issue to be mainstreamed in all policy areas. Gender inequality and violation of women’s and girl’s rights mean a lack of democracy, a lack of development and a lack of justice.

Children and young people are still not perceived as equal rights holders and continue to face additional and multiple barriers to their rights in Europe and worldwide. Children and young people are disproportionately affected by poverty (over one in four children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU) and are at higher risk of poor health, not finishing school and unable to reach their full potential in life. Despite vast research indicating the importance of investing in children and their well-being to address economic and societal challenges and to break the cycle of disadvantage, inaction prevails.

Shrinking space for independent CSOs – including trade unions – to act as change agents. This trend takes different forms from reducing funding to CSOs (work as watchdogs) to limiting the independence of CSOs that receive public funding, to jeopardizing the right to strike and to peaceful assembly and demonstration as well as to more extreme forms of violence including the murder of (environmental) activists

Lack of trust towards public institutions and political representatives from citizens which can lead to the rise of populism and xenophobia in addition to a lack of implementation of human rights, especially for those who face more marginalisation or double discrimination such as women and girls with disabilities

The short-term security imperatives linked to long-standing issues which are now increasingly being felt in Western countries (e.g. refugee flows and terrorism) risk leading to a blurring between development and security-focused cooperation (e.g. development funds being used to provide capacity building assistance and equipment to military actors in third countries) and potentially to the deprioritisation of long-term development within the planetary borders and peacebuilding visions and strategies.

The pressure on natural resources is increasing rapidly as (over)consumption rates in Europe are also increasing. This causes a huge number of violent conflicts with local communities. It also blocks local and regional development in developing countries.

In fragile and post-conflict environments, development processes are frequently interrupted and set back by violence and unresolved conflicts, weak institutions/rule of law and/or corruption. Conflict analysis which fails to take into account local and marginalised voices, such as children, women, persons with disabilities, etc. can miss the multiple drivers and

competing narratives of conflict, and reinforce patterns of exclusion. The SDGs correctly recognise the convergence of global health and public health and wellbeing objectives. Challenges that were previously viewed as external to the EU, such as some infectious diseases (malaria, zika, ebola, etc.) as well as drug-resistant bacteria cannot be assumed to be geographically confined due to global travel and trade and changing disease vectors due to climate change. Action is also called for at all levels of governance to prevent non-communicable diseases related to diet, tobacco, alcohol, pollution and mental stresses, which are global issues that know no borders. As recognised by the UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, the prices of medical treatments are a barrier to universal health coverage and guaranteed access to life-saving care in all countries, including within the EU.

### 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 2030 Agenda calls for a whole-of-government approach which puts the wellbeing of people and planet at its core, with economic and financial systems to support them. As European civil society we now expect the EU to match the ambition of this Agenda with a clear EU implementation strategy, which reflects the integrated, interlinked and comprehensive nature of the Agenda in order to ensure well-being for all within planetary boundaries. At internal level, establish a pillar of social rights to ensure fundamental social, economic and cultural rights for citizens, including those arriving in Europe. An EU-wide applicable set of common and high-level social safeguards includes: adequate minimum income schemes, an adequate minimum wage and guaranteed non-discriminatory universal access to quality and affordable social, health, inclusive education, training and lifelong learning services and childcare. At external level, the scope for EU action is vast, encompassing development assistance, trade, energy, migration, foreign policy and internal market policies. The EU must develop policies that create incentives for governments to implement effective anti-corruption and good governance reforms. The EU should align such policies with the indicators agreed by the UN and develop other indicators that may be more suitable to the implementation of anti-corruption policies. The EU must promote gender equality at internal and external level by mainstreaming the human rights of women and girls in all EU actions with clear objectives, targets and indicators. Women and girls and their representative organisations must participate in all aspects of policy-making: they must be consulted, supported and actively included during the development, implementation and monitoring of action plans related to gender equality. The EU must ensure that all children and young people are able to be meaningfully involved in decisions affecting them and for their views to be taken into account. The rights of children should be visible across all EU actions and child rights impact assessments should become routine across all levels of decision-making. Citizens and CSO monitoring and participating as decision

makers is crucial to ensure decisions taken are led by the common interest rather than the interest of small economic and political elite. The Council should reform its internal rules in order to allow public scrutiny. This would also help the EU regaining some of the lost citizens' trust. The EU must demonstrate that it is able to move towards a socially and environmentally responsible development model at home and abroad, towards an approach which puts the wellbeing of people and planet at its core, with economic and financial systems to support them. In order to do so in a sustainable way, there is a need to change fundamentally our production and consumption model and invest in circular economy. The EU must make the political case for long-term investment in peace and development as global public goods which can help to manage the negative impacts of globalisation and serve as a common international agenda to address geopolitical shifts. This should be done inter alia by: prioritising long-term development and peace building interventions which are informed and designed by tools such as conflict sensitive approaches and conflict analysis which aim to tackle the root causes and drivers of conflict including corruption and weak governance structures; rejecting short-term securitised approaches to migration and focusing instead on addressing the root causes of conflicts and instability which drive migration flows; putting people at the center of EU policies and interventions, notably by supporting and engaging with local communities and CSOs in order to generate policies which are context-sensitive and serve long-term stability; pursuing diplomatic engagement with third countries based on democratic norms, human rights and the rule of law in order to promote political systems which are able to manage conflict and broader developmental change peacefully; establishing sufficient political independence for the institutions which are tasked with promoting long-term peacebuilding and development , within the planetary boundaries in order to avoid co-option into serving short-term crisis response and security objectives. All EU development interventions which are undertaken in fragile and/or conflict-affected countries and regions must be conflict and gender-sensitive and respect the 'Do no harm' principle. Addressing the security-development nexus in fragile environments should be underpinned by a long-term commitment which prioritises the establishment of the rule of law and democratic institutions, corporate accountability and addresses the underlying drivers of conflict and fragility, including justice and reconciliation issues while empowering women, children, youth and marginalised groups as key actors for peace.

#### (4) Priorities for our future action: what we need to do

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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 and Paris agreement are mutually supportive. The different goals and targets included in the 2030 Agenda are interlinked, in such a way that eradicating poverty can only be done while tackling climate change, the depletion of natural resources and biological diversity. In this sense, there is a need to change economic and social paradigms in order to place people

and planet in the center of the implementation of the agenda. SDGs Watch asks for the EU to take a holistic approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, creating coordination mechanisms among EU institutions as well as establishing an open dialogue with CSOs from and outside Europe.

The EU should develop an implementation plan based on the three dimensions of the SDGs: economic, social and environmental (underpinned by good governance) – while ensuring that a gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout. As the biggest development donor globally, the EU must take action to promote holistic and comprehensive measures in compliance with the 2030 Agenda. Changing the consumption and production model, ensuring that policies and programmes are in compliance with UN Human Rights treaties and promoting renewable energy are some examples of how to include these three dimensions at EU level. In addition, the EU has a coordination role not only among its EU Member States, but also as a key regional body which can influence decisions at the global level.

Moreover, the EU needs to work towards and promote an inclusive security, making sure that all stakeholders, and particularly women, are fully included in all issues of peace and security in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250. Furthermore, it is essential that the EU uses the transformative potential of 1325 as a peace agenda.

Climate change is playing a growing role in fuelling insecurity and conflict in the Global South inter alia by increasing resource scarcity, competition over land use, urbanisation, migration and forced displacement. Climate change acts as a threat multiplier, exacerbating existing tensions and divisions, especially in already fragile situations. To improve its efforts to address the links between climate change and other global sustainable development challenges, the EU should:

Commit to fostering more effective synergies between peace, humanitarian and development actions, especially in fragile and/or conflict-affected countries, as a first step towards a holistic and sustainable EU development policy framework.

Foster the integrated and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and follow up on the EU commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit, through a cross-institutional approach facilitated by relevant structures in the EU institutions.

Enhance coordination between the internal and external dimensions of policy coherence for Sustainable development (PCSD).

Strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of partner countries' governance structures to deliver sustainable outcomes on addressing climate change.

Support inclusive policies and partner country ownership of Sustainable Development strategies, as agreed in 2002 (Rio+10) and enhanced accountability as regards partner countries' national systems.

Fulfil the financial commitments related to addressing climate change in conflict-affected and/or fragile contexts which are foreseen in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Ensure that adequate financing is in place for the least developed countries (LDCs). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement commitments will not be met without significant investment in LDCs. Investing in vulnerable groups will be critical for achieving inclusive, equitable and

sustainable development.

Redirect existing investments, subsidies and tax policies in such a way that unsustainable practices will be outphased, in order to invest in sustainable development. Ban tax havens.

#### 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 European Union has committed to fighting poverty and social exclusion and to promoting equality and solidarity, within planetary boundaries, that is through respecting the limits of the planet – both at the EU level in the EU treaties with instruments such as the European Strategies of SD ,Europe 2020 strategy, and at international level with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement

Despite these commitments we have seen trends of widening gaps between and within Member States in social and economic terms. Economic growth and stability have supremacy over social and environmental policy decisions and investment approaches in EU decision-making. Around a quarter of the population in the EU – 122 million people – is at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Wealth and income are increasingly concentrated among a small percentage of the population, dramatically increasing inequality and impacting negatively and substantially on social cohesion environmental conditions and economic growth. We need ambitious rules and guidelines set at EU level to foster upward social, environmental and economic convergence.

Within the EU, this can be done through the setup of EU level social and environmental standards. Social and environmental standards are needed to ensure a life in dignity and health and full participation in society for all and will also ensure more resilient and better-performing economic systems: there is growing evidence that increasing spending in social and environmental policies and services is positive for the economy, both through its demand side effects – such as by strengthening domestic demand and counterweighting economic crises – and through the supply side, by improving the skills of the labour force , integrate the environmental costs and increasing sustainable productivity. Social and environmental investment also has a positive preventive impact on people's health and wellbeing, ensuring long-term savings for public budgets.

Finally, social and environmental standards can help people to regain faith in politics and in the EU. European citizens are increasingly frustrated by economic issues constantly prevailing over their social security, biodiversity and healthy environment and wellbeing and are lacking faith in the EU project. The May 2014 EU elections saw the lowest voter turnout on record – just 42.61%, with young people particularly absent. At the same time, the extreme right is advancing all over the continent, with growing

consensus obtained at every national and local poll. Only ambitious actions for an EU that cares about the people and the planet can divert this trend.

How?

Propose and adopt relevant legislation. Whenever it is possible and a legal basis exists to act, binding instruments should be used

Reform tax systems to prevent tax avoidance and evasion to ensure adequate funding for social and environmental policies and services.

A balanced integration of the different dimensions of sustainable development can be reached through better use of PCD. Policy planning and implementation should be coupled with a more strategic and efficient use of finances, and a greater emphasis on accountability.

The traditional donor-recipient framing of development cooperation needs to be expanded. With aid dependence in decline in many parts of the world which are nonetheless at risk of conflict, the EU will not be able to shape debates on best practice and policy in other countries unless it can demonstrate that it is taking action at home.

The EU should support multi-stakeholder partnerships which bring together development, environment, peacebuilding, rights etc. communities. Achieving results will increasingly require partnerships with civil society, private sector, parliaments, local governments, diplomats and military officials. The EU can use the 2030 Agenda as a platform to pull together relevant constituencies in order to catalyse action on specific yet interlinked problems.

Ensure that the role of EU funds such as the European Social Fund are reinforced, and that the allocated 20% of the ESF to social inclusion and ex-ante conditionality on social inclusion and the fight against poverty requiring a national anti-poverty strategy, or a timeline for producing one, are both taken forward.

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

SDG Watch would like to see a new European Consensus for Development which takes the guiding principles of the 2030 Agenda as core values. People and planet must be at the core of development policies and programmes by leaving no one behind. Better coordination with other EU policies and among EU institutions must be a core approach for the EU. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) must be a tool for the EU to lead on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the post-Europe 2020 Strategy needs to address the international perspective which is not the case in the current strategy.

The revision should take into consideration new global challenges, address the EU's implementation of the SDGs and reiterate underlying values such as respect for human rights, rule of law and democracy. It should also pay special attention to the inclusion and participation of women, children, young people and other marginalised groups, as well as to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. The EU should consider its development policy as an investment in global stability and conflict-sensitivity should be prioritised as a cross-cutting theme throughout the revised European Consensus on Development (ECD). As a cross-cutting principle, the EU should integrate a gender perspective in all of its development efforts, including in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is vital that a gender perspective is mainstreamed across all targets through specific indicators addressing gender inequalities and through the use of disaggregated data.

In line with the recommendations in the outcome document of the recent World Humanitarian Summit (the 'Peace Promise'). The EU should avoid pursuing a compartmentalised approach to fragile states and work together with relevant counterparts across silos and at the peace-humanitarian-development nexus in order to address the drivers of violent conflict, deliver conflict-sensitive humanitarian assistance and develop institutions, resilience and capacities simultaneously in a complementary and synergistic way, in a context-specific manner which safeguards the integrity of the humanitarian principles.

#### 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?

The EU, in cooperation with CSOs, must identify the best way to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the long term instead of taking a more reactive role towards global challenges. Building capacity of CSOs, ensuring they have the needed space to act, promoting an open dialogue between them and local authorities and promoting learning exchanges among countries and citizens will promote a bottom-up approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

EU external action as a whole must be more consistent and coherent. Commitments to long-term, sustainable development and peace should not be deprioritised in favour of more pressing political objectives. The EU needs to ensure better coherence of development policy with other EU policies (e.g., trade, agriculture, Europe 2020) that might jeopardize development policy objectives abroad. In particular, greater consistency with development policy is required especially in the following areas:

Humanitarian assistance (including support to refugees and displaced persons)  
Human rights country strategies  
Development and tax policy  
Development and trade policy  
Development/food security and CAP  
Gender equality and women's rights  
Climate change  
Sustainable production and consumption paradigm shift  
Protection and improvement of health and wellbeing instead of focus on economic growth and jobs (Europe 2020)

**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 should lead by example in implementing the political commitments which were made in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), the Stockholm Declaration on Addressing Fragility and Building Peace in a Changing World, and the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA). Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) should be at the core of the EU policies and programmes.

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is a key tool for the EU to develop coordination mechanisms at international level. As the biggest development donor globally, the EU has a strong presence not only at international fora, but also on a country level. Through EU Delegations, a direct dialogue can be established in order to identify the context of the country to better promote sustainable development.

The EU has a value-added as a development partner in terms of gender, as gender equality – in accordance with the founding treaties – is a core value of the EU. However, there is a need for policy coherence between EU internal and external policies, especially in terms of implementation of Agenda 2030. Peace, security, dignity, justice and development won't be realised as long as the realisation of women's human rights and gender equality is not at the core of the global development agenda. In addition, the EU has the role of diplomatic partner with the aim to pursue rights-based development and cooperation focused on peacebuilding, governance and justice, and on supporting local CSOs. It can mobilise substantial resources and the significant influence of the combined voices of its Member States (MS) and civil society.

**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 EU must promote the values of the 2030 Agenda based on equality, to comply with its principal motto of leaving no one behind. The burden of violence and insecurity is itself unequal – the most marginalised and poorest people in the world bear the brunt of it – and it is an obvious factor which perpetuates economic, social and political inequality. Vertical inequality is associated with higher levels of interpersonal violence, whereas horizontal inequalities between social groups (ethnic, religious, etc.) are known drivers of conflict. In order to address this, the EU should adopt and mainstream people- and environment centred approaches and foster inclusive development and equal access to opportunities for growth. In fragile contexts, the EU should prioritise women, children and young people because they are often excluded from development initiatives. This is a prerequisite

for eliminating extreme poverty and for achieving the other SDGs. Targeting children and youth in a fragility-sensitive design and implementation of the revised ECD would also stimulate intergenerational change. Policy must be translated into real and concrete actions from governments and local authorities. Disadvantaged sections of the population, particularly women and children, are worst hit by the effects of corruption. It makes it much harder and more expensive for them to access public services and resources. EU development policy must help in addressing the root causes of corruption so that it can better address these inequalities including gender inequality. EU development policy must help to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms and support institutions at all levels. The role of civil society is also critical – civil society can facilitate public participation and help to bring the most marginalised voices to the table. But without the rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and access to information guaranteed in law and practice civil society cannot play its part. Commitments expressed in Goal 16 with transparent participatory and accountable governance and institutions at its center is not only essential to support sustainable implementation of Post 2015 goals and targets but will also be foundational for an accountability framework that provides meaningful opportunities for engagement by citizens of all ages, genders and social groups. The EU must refine its development policy to ensure that people's participation is institutionalised at all levels. The EU must establish some priorities to ensure that no one is left behind: , and no one goes too far beyond (limiting overconsumption), to stay within the planetary boundaries. Gender equality is a prerequisite for every policy and programme. There is a need to empower women, to promote them as decision makers so women can be visible in public and political spaces. Gendered impact assessment must be systematic, taking into account the intersection between different systems of oppressions and discrimination. The EU desperately needs policy coherence between its external and internal policies in terms of gender equality. The EU is often more vocal about women's rights outside of its borders, than it is inside. For example, the EU is quite strong when it comes to violence against women and the respect for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in its development work. At the same time, they are not able to agree on an internal EU strategy to end all forms of violence against women. Children must be respected as equal rights holders and child-friendly structures and mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that every child is able to participate in decisions affecting his or her life. Child rights impact assessments must be systematic to progress the mainstreaming of children across all EU decision-making. The EU must include the most marginalised people, including migrants, LGBTI, racial minorities, children, persons with disabilities or elderly people. In order to avoid "ghettoisation" and more marginalisation, socially mixed communities would be required throughout Europe. Intersectionality and multiple discrimination on the grounds of age, ethnic and racial origin, religion and belief, gender identity and sexual orientation, and disability among other factors, must also be highlighted when developing policies and programmes. The private sector can be an ally for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, its actions should be monitored in order to ensure compliance with Human Rights treaties, tax obligations as well as labor and environmental standards. In addition, private sector should never substitute



the role of government and local authorities. Environmental justice and equality is key in achieving fair share of use of natural resources. This means a reduction of the use of natural resources in the global North, to give “space” for the development in the Global South.

#### 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?

The revised European Consensus for Development should explicitly refer to human security as defined in the 2012 UNGA resolution 66/290, which means the need to have a people- and environment centred approach throughout the programming cycle rather than just state security, which focuses on the territorial integrity of the state. It should provide for more effective joint action – including through more funding – on conflict prevention, placing peacebuilding on an equal footing as state-building and emphasising human security. The planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU sustainable development policy and programming should be based on a thorough analysis of power, economy, justice, human rights, environmental justice, security and well-being, and the interactions between them, and the formal and informal capacities of societies to avoid , manage and resolve conflicts without violence. This process must be carried out through consultation to ensure that both the design and implementation reflect local concerns and needs.

Given that security sector reform (SSR) raises various sensitive issues, the mainstreaming of people- and environment centred approaches requires giving sufficient attention to attitudinal and behavioural change within partner governments. Cross-government sensitisation, training and lesson learning must be promoted in order to ensure normative and structural commitment to people- and environment centred approaches to security. When this is absent, the risk is that the EU simply strengthens the hands of ‘toxic’ allies, further entrenching the status quo and thus shoring up instability for the future. Ultimately, progress on SDG 16 and other SDGs will come down to domestic political leadership at the level of both state and society. Consensus within the development and peacebuilding communities on the need to ‘work politically’ will be meaningless if it is interpreted only as understanding local politics and working with the grain of the status quo.

In addition, there is a wealth of evidence out there which points to a strong link between corruption, exploitation of natural resources and conflict. Accepting this strong link should make tackling corruption and corporate power a top priority for the EU with important policy implications:

Recognising that corrupt governments are not our allies, which might mean cutting off security assistance when it’s fuelling a patronage system that is leading to disaffected populations and inequality, even when the state is an

“ally”.

Stronger action to contain those whose motives and behaviours are suspect by ending with the idea that “access equals influence” in diplomatic relationships -as it tends to erode political competition that allows the democratic process to increase pressure for accountability.

Shifting incentive structures for corrupt individuals. Joint action by EU states to sanction corrupt individuals and prevent access to our education system, markets, and lifestyle would be major step in shifting the incentive. Increase the focus on security sector governance in fragile states. Fragile states are naturally priority targets for international support, but have the weakest institutional capacity for absorbing assistance. The EU should explicitly recognise and analyse the risk of corruption in the design and delivery of all security assistance programs - recognising that both knowledge and equipment can be diverted.

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

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The revised Consensus should:

Promote a Human Rights-Based Approach to migration aimed at targeting the root causes of migration flows, ensuring the respect for fundamental rights of migrants and deconstructing the discourse of the securitisation of borders, re-considering the Mobility Partnerships, and promoting equal access to health, education and affordable housing services for all. EU's engagement with third countries should be reconsidered by building on existing relevant policy frameworks, such as the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. Establish genuine circular migration schemes for both highly-qualified and low-skilled migrants. This should go in tandem with measures aiming at stimulating inclusive growth and sharing its benefits in the EU and in developing countries.

EU development cooperation budget (DCI, EDF and all other financial instruments) should not be used to promote a securitarian approach to migration. The EU Trust Fund for Africa risks mixing development aid, whose aim is to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, with the support to African states for increased borders' control. The revised European Consensus for Development must prioritise supporting sustainable development and long-term peace in countries affected by instability and conflict.

ODA should not be made conditional to borders control or to increase national security borders. Using development funds to build the capacities of military actors and to provide them with equipment to manage migration raises the concern that donor interests are being prioritised over those of people in partner countries. This also contradicts the well-established and fundamental principle of aid working impartially to advance the well-being and rights of people in the face of violence and abuse by all conflict actors, including security services.

To create a new, more ambitious narrative which includes as a priority a focus on good governance, corporate accountability, rule of law, strong institutions and anti-corruption along with enhanced civil society engagement to better address the root causes of migration and forced displacement.

### (5) Means of implementation: how do we get there?

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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?

Diaspora groups and the remittances they provide are the largest source of external financing for many developing countries. In 2012, remittances amounted to \$ 351 billion compared to the \$ 125.6 billion provided by the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The volume of remittances is likely to increase as financial transfers become easier and 18 million migrants and eight million refugees leave conflict-affected and fragile states each year. While the private sector is increasingly interested in partnering in development, more work needs to be done to leverage its role in fragile states. Donors should ensure financial additionality by establishing indicators that assess financial needs as well as opportunity costs in relation to other development concerns, and by creating eligibility criteria that favours the domestic private sector and takes into account track records of the private sector actor in delivering development results. Firstly, only 6% of foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing countries goes to fragile states. Secondly, the private sector's role in a range of economic sectors means that conflict-sensitive business practice could deliver significant dividends.

Evidence from many conflict-affected and fragile states indicates that investment which is not sensitive to fragile or conflict-affected contexts can exacerbate pre-existing tensions and/or create new ones. In that sense, the EU should take steps to ensure that investment and trade actions at the very minimum do no harm but also have a positive impact on the conflict context. The EU should lead on or engage seriously with international processes to tackle illicit financial flows (IFFs), including through aligning with the country's development priorities and an inclusive approach to citizen engagement (i.e. CSOs, trade unions (through social dialogue) and local communities, in addition to private sector actors), eliminating secretive tax havens, increasing transparency on company ownership, facilitating information sharing on taxes, enabling the return of stolen assets, and identifying and sanctioning transfer mispricing.

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

ODA must not be used to promote a securitarian approach to migration, nor should it be made conditional to borders control. The EU should consider the conflict- and gender-sensitivity of its Official Development Assistance due to its potential to either increase conflict or contribute to peacebuilding:

Today, 43% of people living on less than \$1.25/day live in the 50 countries defined by the OECD as 'fragile'. By 2030, the concentration could be 62%. The aim of ending poverty will increasingly have to be focused on these countries. The EU needs to ensure that the all of its aid both contributes to building peace and catalysing development.

Increases in ODA in conflict-affected contexts will not, on their own, catalyse peace or poverty reduction. A consensus has been built through the 'New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States' on how aid can be more effectively delivered in these contexts. The New Deal principles should be reflected in the revised ECD.

The EU should set priorities as part of a broader political strategy for long-term peace and development in the relevant country context rather than as standalone 'securitised' interventions.

Sustainable peace is the bedrock of development but it cannot be built by states alone: viable states have a strong and active citizenry, thriving civil society and healthy state-society relations. When considering ownership, it is important to clarify that the ultimate beneficiaries of financing for development should be the people whose lives are affected by poverty, conflict, fragility and marginalisation and not just partner country governments.

More flexibility is needed to cope with contexts in which disbursements, risks and results management are challenging donors' traditional models. A number of issues should be addressed to help to ensure that the EU's financial support to partner country governments achieves its desired objectives, and that further developments in this area contribute to stronger state-society relations and long-term peace.

Civil society should have a role in shaping how development financing is used. Such an approach requires that the EU and partner countries go beyond one-off consultations and adopt ongoing, structured participatory processes and dialogue with actors who are genuinely representative of wider society. In order to support a vibrant citizenry which will be able to play an active role in the aid and reform agendas, the EU should adopt innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms for CSOs.

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

Curbing illicit financial flows and other forms of corruption would help safeguard resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development. EU policies should ensure effective and accountable institutions and enhance delivery of public goods and services through progressive tax measures and commitments to end illicit financial flows. EU policies should also help to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms and support accountable institutions at all levels.

EU policies must also encourage developed and developing countries to work together to reduce illicit financial flows. This should include the implementation of a public register of beneficial ownership information of companies and other legal entities.

Public country-by-country reporting for multinational companies, currently adopted for extractive industry companies in the EU and US, should also be extended to all sectors.

The EU must also strengthen implementation and enforcement of the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and accelerate stolen asset recovery.

Actions directed to regulate EU companies operating in partners countries must ensure adequate redress mechanisms for workers and communities when their labour and environmental rights are violated, establish the legal accountability of leading firms for the actions of their subcontractors all along the production and distribution chain and include mandatory due diligence and transparency obligations in order to make visible who is in the supply chain and hence allow monitoring and accountability.

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

It is necessary to recognise the impact which development processes can have on conflicts and to integrate conflict-sensitive approaches to middle-income countries also as a means to ensure equitable and sustainable growth. The 2030 Agenda should be used as a basis for multi-stakeholder co-operation between donor agencies and other relevant government departments from Western countries, emerging donors, civil society and private sector actors. This can be supported by a forum where local organizations can work side-by-side with public and social service providers on finding solutions to our shared challenges addressing Construction & Energy, Finance and Social Affairs.

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

The EU and its MS should commit to Identifying ways to link and implement the outcomes of the Post-2015 Frameworks (e.g. the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs) and the new UN Peacebuilding Architecture Resolution as they relate to conflict, crises and emergencies to promote policy and practice coherence.

## (6) The actors: making it work together

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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?

In relation to its partnership with CSO, the EU should keep defending that NGOs are crucial, autonomous and independent partners, critical change and accountability agents, citizens mobilisers, and important defenders of democracy and human rights and condemn any attempt to use public funds to impose political control over NGOs. The EU should have as one of its main priorities to preserve or enlarge the space for civil society organisations and anti-corruption activists to carry out this important work, to facilitate such work in its policies and to provide the necessary incentives to governments to do so. This will also require the EU to speak out boldly against measures designed to restrict the activities of civil society organisations where necessary. EU delegations can promote proactive engagement with NGOs and intensify partnership and the policy dialogue. The EU Country Roadmaps for engagements with CSOs should be recognised and used as a tool for better policy dialogue and overall strategic engagement with a range of civil society actors at the country level.

The EU should also encourage governments to sign up to multi-stakeholder transparency initiatives that include a place for civil society at the table, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Open Contracting Partnership.

The EU should also consult CSOs in drawing up its implementation strategy, as recommended by the European Parliament (EP) in its resolution of 12 May 2016 on 'Follow-up and state of play of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals'.

The EU should continue to implement the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness, and, in particular, the commitments to enable CSOs to exercise their roles as independent development actors, with a particular focus on enabling environments, consistent with agreed international rights.

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

The private sector clearly is an important engine of economic growth and wealth creation. Nevertheless, the very motivation that underpins private sector activity, namely its profit seeking nature, is not necessarily aligned with sustainable development objectives. To be effective and benefit the people, it needs to be framed within a normative approach to “development” – one that guarantees rights – and a vision of governments that maintain its developmental leadership role. Holding multinational businesses to account for their impact would require alignment of corporate behaviour and reporting with aid effectiveness principles and measuring impacts. Any private sector for development initiative should first aim at supporting local SMEs among others to help tackle informality.

A developmental role of government would help ensure country ownership, a core pillar of aid effectiveness, and re-direct private sector role toward the much needed mobilisation of domestic resource. Private sector should not become a suitable replacement to the state in delivering essential services, and as a result public finance should continue to be used to strengthen state institutions. Two policy priorities are suggested:

Setting clear boundaries for public financing of development initiatives for the private sector, ensuring development objectives and recipient country ownership;

Setting strict conditionalities – labour rights, environmental rights, human rights (including women’s human rights), corporate accountabilities – for the use of public money for private sector activities in development.

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

The EU needs to clearly communicate its dedication to achieve the SDGs. This means that the ambitions need to be translated into a language helping to transform our ‘business as usual’ economy to a low-carbon and sustainable one. The timeline of the upcoming actions should be defined precisely in the White paper. The EU's work and partnerships for aid effectiveness should continue to be guided by the commitments included in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, and the Nairobi Declaration for Development Effectiveness.

#### 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 must lead the coordination of the 2030 Agenda implementation. By promoting universal values but also by considering the social, economic and governance context of different countries, the EU can ensure harmonisation and a comprehensive development of national Sustainable Development plans. The EU should promote that developed and developing countries establish learning exchanges in which CSOs and governments can raise main challenges and good practices. The EU should build horizontal and vertical networks, looking beyond single thematic issues and targets, to galvanise communities of interest around the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, there is a critical need to make the vertical connection between policy-makers at international and national levels, and the perspectives of those most affected by environmental degradation, injustice, corruption, violence and/or exclusion.

#### 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?

As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, EU MS should show political leadership in the formulation of sustainable development strategies and the integration of the SDG in national policy measures. Better coordination is required in those EU MS in which SDG-related responsibilities are shared between different ministries. National indicator frameworks for the follow-up and review process, which will form the basis for reviews at regional and global levels, should be well articulated and take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. The need for an overarching strategy is particularly acute in areas in which the EU has shared competence with the EU MS. The EU's strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must therefore specifically address coherence between implementation at both national levels and the EU level.

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

While increasing available resources for development is fundamental for a transformative 2030 Agenda, even more important is that available resources are utilized in the most effective and efficient ways possible and that existing resources are redirected to sustainable actions and investments. Evidence shows that fiscal transparency, rule of law, expenditure monitoring and accountability can contribute to more efficient spending that achieves better development results. EU should ensure that its policies as regards third countries (development assistance, trade and investment, foreign and security policy), as well as legislation that regulates the activities of multinational corporations, are contributing to reductions in corruption, bribery, illicit financial flows in a manner that is coherent between these and other policies. In addition, the 2030 Agenda was designed to address the interlinkages and interdependencies which underpin today's global challenges. It therefore requires a whole-of-government approach which puts the wellbeing of people and planet at its core, with economic and financial systems to support them.

The EC should follow through on its commitment to negotiate ambitious anti-corruption provisions in bilateral trade agreements, such as the transparency of public procurement procedures and customs facilitation measures. Legislation on corporate disclosures (e.g. country-by-country reporting legislation) should also bear in mind their value to, and use by, citizens of third countries.

Funding and assistance for third countries should be aligned with the existence of SDG targets, willingness to engage in monitoring and review mechanisms, the role of civil society in these mechanisms, and progress in meeting Goal 16 targets.

The EU should promote the participation of all parts of society, including women, youth and other marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities.

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

The SDGs can be definitely linked to the implementation of COP21 and the Global Urban Agenda (Habitat III). The EU should proactively integrate peace into its own economic development projects and those which it supports through the UN and development banks. This should also apply for countries in situations of fragility. The EU should also make sure that its diplomatic work at UN level, especially during the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, reflect its commitments, and ensure coherence between CSW conclusions and the 2030 Agenda.

## (7) Keeping track of progress

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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 EC should consider the European Semester process as a tool for monitoring the implementation. However, in the SDGs framework it is important that the Semester focuses not only on macro-economic but also social and environmental indicators (ex: people at risk of poverty, health and wellbeing indicators, access to public services, green accounting).

The EU institutions should conduct a self-assessment of their implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and a thorough review their integrity, transparency and accountability.

The EU should either join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) or develop an OGP-style action plan and agree indicators (based on SDG indicators) to monitor how it is performing. This should also be the basis for a chapter on the EU institutions to be included in the biennial EU Anti-Corruption Report. The EU and its MS should continue to provide input into relevant discussion fora (e.g. the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, etc.) and take the lead in advancing an overarching strategy for the implementation, monitoring, accountability and review framework of the SDGs in a participatory and inclusive way, both at home and abroad.

The EU should monitor its progress in the implementation of its human rights commitments and should foster accountability from the Member States, especially in relation to the UN key conventions such as CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and other international fundamental treaties.

## 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?

While financial flows and investments from governments will be central to achieving the SDG, we must rethink traditional approaches to financing sustainable development if we are to collectively achieve the goals set out by this new agenda. While investments by the private sector are being called on to complement public financial flows, substantial foreign direct investment has become more concentrated in a few middle-income and emerging economies, and away from the poorest. When money does flow, there is no way to ensure private investments will positively impact the world's poorest people, particularly where they need it most. Therefore, it is critical to provide a framework for enhancing transparent and accountable private sector financial flows at all levels, and to ensure that these efforts are responsive to the needs of the world's poorest and most marginalized. Adherence and implementation of internationally recognised guidelines and principles concerning business behaviour and their accountability instruments (namely the ILO Conventions and standards, including the ILO Declaration on Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights) should become key condition to grant private sector support in development cooperation. Review and accountability procedures that are agreed upon for state actors etc must have the scope and the mandate to also monitor the impact and actions of other actors, including the private sector public private partnerships. The architecture for follow up and review of the post 2015 agenda should for example review the private sector contribution to the SDGs and on the implementation of the UN guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Such monitoring and review would complement the monitoring of specific measures on private sector responsibility included in the 2030 Agenda.

The EU should support the creation of spaces at regional and global level for the meaningful inclusion and participation of women, children, young people and other marginalised groups in ensuring accountability for the delivery the SDGs.

The EU should strengthen civil society's key role in this process. Regularly consulting and communicating (through appropriate channels) with civil society, marginalised communities, local actors and faith leaders could help to facilitate the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The EU should lead by example by continuing to share its aid data with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

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

An inter-service task force should be established. They need to communicate the same indicators to third countries as to Member States. The task force needs to assist with the development of third countries' strategies, then will work on the continuous monitoring/analysis of development, and finally propose new measures to partner countries in order to achieve the goals /targets.

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