

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

---

The year 2015 was a strategic milestone for global governance, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It marked the target date of the UN Millennium Development Goals and a point to reflect on the progress made to date and the challenges ahead in addressing their unfinished business. 2015 also saw a series of landmark international summits and conferences over the course of the year (the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the COP 21 [Paris Agreement](#) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) which have collectively re-cast the way the international community, including the EU, will work to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication for many years.

Importantly, and in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, including its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, is a universal Agenda which applies to all countries. It reflects many core European values and interests and provides an international framework for tackling global challenges such as climate change. The EU response to the 2030 Agenda is moving ahead in a range of ways:

- Firstly, as part of EU efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, the [Commission Work Programme for 2016](#) announces an initiative on the next steps for a sustainable European future which will explain how the EU contributes to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and map out the internal and external aspects of EU policies contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Secondly, the High Representative will present the [EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy](#) that is expected to steer the different EU external policies contributing to the global vision of a more stable, prosperous and secure world. It should set out the strategic direction for the full range of EU external action, and as such will help guide EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda in external action.
- Thirdly, the EU will review its development cooperation policy. Existing leading policy documents (including the [2005 European Consensus on Development](#) and the [2011 Agenda for Change](#)) are currently framed around the Millennium Development Goals and need to adapt to incorporate the 2030 Agenda. Given its direct relevance to the EU's overall relations with developing countries, this review will be carried out in full consistency with the ongoing work on the future of the partnership between the EU and the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, under a post-[Cotonou](#) framework.

Views from this consultation will be used to inform the way forward on the initiatives above and in particular the revision of the European Consensus on Development and other external aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation. The consultation seeks your views on **how development policy, in the context of EU external action as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty**, should respond to the range of landmark 2015 summits and conferences, and also to the rapid changes happening in the world.

Replies can include views which could apply only to the EU institutions and also to both the EU and its Member States – it would be helpful to clarify this in your response. This open public consultation will run for 12 weeks from 30 May 2016 to 21 August 2016. A brief summary and analysis of all consultation contributions will be published by November 2016 and all individual contributions will also be made available on the consultation website (unless respondents ask for their contributions not to be published).

## (2) Information on respondents

---

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

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

- ☐ I do not agree that my contribution will be published at all
- ☐ My contribution may be published but should be kept anonymous; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication
- ☒ My contribution may be published under the name indicated; I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication

- \* 2.2 Are you registered in the EU's Transparency Register?

Please note: Organisations, networks, platforms or self-employed individuals engaged in activities aimed at influencing the EU decision making process are expected to register in the transparency Register. During the analysis of replies to a consultation, contributions from respondents who choose not to register will be treated as individual contributions (unless the contributors are recognised as representative stakeholders through Treaty provisions, European Social Dialogue, Art. 154-155 TFEU).

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

- \* 2.2.1 If yes, what is your registration number?

Identification number in the register: 5546423688-07  
Registration date: 28/11/2008  
Not-for-profit association under French law (Association Loi 1901)

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

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe CPMR  
Conférence des Régions Périphériques Maritimes d'Europe CRPM

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

Not-for-profit association under French law (Association Loi 1901)

\* 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

6, rue St Martin - F-35700 Rennes - France

(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?

a. The list of key global trends is long and any attempt to establish a hierarchy between these trends would beg for equally extensive nuance. Ultimately, the 17 SDGs and 169 targets of the UN 2030 Agenda constitute in themselves a not-perfect-but-still-good compendium of key global trends, their challenges and the opportunities within them. The 2030 Agenda materialises an unprecedented effort to craft a universal, indivisible and

integrated agenda. Neither cherry-picking SDGs, nor compartmentalising subjects when implementing it is an option.

b. The degree of interconnection between the different social, economic, political, cultural and environmental challenges has exponentially deepened over the first years of the 21st century. From the link between economic development and access to natural resources and their sustainable development; to the link between global geo-political and humanitarian crisis with migration and displacement consequences and their impact on the social cohesion of local communities; passing by the water, energy, food, climate nexus; or climate change adaptation for sustained economic development. These are just a few mere examples of the interconnectedness and interlinkages between the different challenges underpinning human development nowadays. A correlation in integrated policy-making and enhanced policy coherence for development cooperation is yet to be found.

c. Inequality among and within countries in this 21st century is a phenomenon of complementary though still different nature than poverty. Much remains to be done to identify key disruptors of inequality and the strategies for implementation must be based on a territorial approach. In inequality, place matters and marks the chances of individuals and societies to enjoy a life of dignity anchored on human rights; as well as to deploy their full social, economic and cultural development within environmental limits and the carrying capacity of natural systems.

d. The potential of sustainable urban and territorial development for human development has been recognised by the international community with the adoption of SDG 11 on cities and human settlements. Urbanization and demographic growth have increasingly linked cities with their peri-urban and rural hinterland, spatially as well as functionally through economic dynamics, social links and environmental synergies. Cities in many places grow together and become urban agglomerations where functional linkages overcome traditional administrative boundaries. The interdependencies between rural and urban areas become particularly apparent in regard to migration movements, multi-local livelihoods, and the increasing flow of goods and services, resources, capital, and information. The imperative of balanced and integrated territorial development is as needed as ever. Operationalising coordinated multi-level governance and decision-making systems that are aligned vertically and coordinated horizontally are two key conditions for this.

e. The disconnect between citizens, political leaders and institutions is a growing phenomenon of multiplying negative consequences for peaceful and stable societies, democratic civic engagement and ultimately social cohesion and respect to human rights. Regional government – and even more eminently – local government, are the first door on which citizens call for daily life challenges, even on issues which may not be of direct local or regional government capacity. For many, these spheres of government are their first experience with democracy and civic engagement. Empowering and capacitating local and regional government for integrated policy-making, sound financial management, efficient service delivery, transparent, inclusive and

participatory planning & management and multi-stakeholder partnerships; are important multipliers to start reversing the trend of disconnection.

### 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 CPMR is of the view that the new EU Development Consensus should:

- a. Aim at implementing the 2030 Agenda in scrupulous respect to its universal, indivisible and integrated nature; and hence avoid any attempts to redefine its goals and targets, establish any hierarchy among them or fall back into compartmentalised or siloed approaches to sustainable human development.
- b. Protect the compatibility between, on the one hand, the universality of the 2030 Agenda and, on the other hand, the principle of differentiation and the territorial approach to its implementation.
- c. Promote institutional arrangements to bridge economic, social, environmental and cultural policies in the partner countries where it will operate and also within EU institutions and legislation.
- d. Place strong emphasis on policy coherence for sustainable development, within and beyond the direct development policy lines and its budget. It should promote and enable “systems-thinking” and cross-sectoral solutions.
- e. Practice a systemic screening for coherence in terms of the actors involved in different lines of action – i.e. decentralisation without involving local and regional governments is hollow and ineffective.
- f. Be fundamentally anchored on the notions of balanced and integrated territorial development and territorial cohesion. To that end, it should also foster the coherence between national and subnational plans and strategies; as well as help operationalize coordinated multi-level governance and decision-making systems that are aligned vertically and coordinated horizontally.
- g. Acknowledge and incentivize the deployment of financing instruments and capacity building tools for all levels of government with an intensity commensurate with the overarching goal of balanced and integrated territorial development.
- h. Identify the empowerment of local and regional government and the promotion of decentralisation and the subsidiarity principle as key priorities.
- i. Provide specific tools for civic engagement initiatives and multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional and local levels.



## (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?

Local and regional governments are vital actors for the integrated and balanced development of their territories, as currently captured in the recent Territorial Approach to Local Development TALD. They are also pivotal contributors to national development and climate change plans.

It is now commonly accepted at the United Nations that local and regional government action will be essential for the implementation and achievement of a considerable percentage of the 169 targets of Agenda 2030. Besides, SDG 11 on cities and human settlements calls to “enhance (...) capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management;” as well as to “increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters (...).” Though the latter is already the practice of many local and regional governments worldwide; much can still be done to develop capacities and exchange knowledge and solutions that can be relevant to the specific needs and assets of a given territory. Moreover, it is internationally acknowledged that local and regional governments across the globe are leading on climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts; in many instances with higher levels of ambition and results than their respective national governments.

In the view of the CPMR, the new EU Development Consensus:

- a. Has an important role to play in ensuring that local and regional governments are not only seen by national governments, donor agencies or multi-lateral institutions as partners for project implementation but also as peers for policy-making, implementation strategies and access to finance.
- b. Must help build capacity in local and regional governments for integrated planning and management with instruments and solutions conceived from the perspective of functional territories (beyond administrative borders); with long-term and multi-disciplinary approaches, and supported by a multi-scale and a multi-sectoral commitment of different levels of government, as well as of public and private stakeholders.
- c. Must promote decentralised cooperation as a vital tool for peer-to-peer collaboration and mutual learning.

#### 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?

For the CPMR, the short answer is: By making policy coherence the “new norma”.

As per our answer 3.2.b above and in coherence with answers 3.1.a and b, the new EU Development Consensus represents an extraordinary window of opportunity to promote institutional arrangements to bridge economic, social, environmental and cultural policies in the partner countries where it will operate and also within EU institutions and legislation.

For actions in partner countries, the selection of activities and projects can include, as relevant, requirements of (i) ex ante and ex post assessment of how will they address and enhance policy coherence in their expected objectives and outcomes/outputs; (ii) multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary criteria for the partnerships underpinning the activities and projects; and (iii) civic engagement and participatory democracy.

As suggested by PLATFORMA in its individual consultation response, within EU institutions and legislation, the ongoing review of the Multi-annual financial framework is a practical channel for addressing policy coherence. Increased cooperation between DG DEVCO and other DGs, DG REGIO in particular, offers potential to strengthen the international dimension in the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda (Pact of Amsterdam) and involving local and regional governments who shared their innovative urban policies in the framework of their cooperation. Such initiative could also enrich the work of the Policy Forum on Development. On another front, the international dimension of the New European Covenant of Mayors 2030 could be strengthened, to help fostering climate related decentralised cooperation between cities and regions in the world.

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

Please refer to answer 3.2 above.

Besides, in the view of the CPMR, the new EU Development Consensus should promote a new paradigm of North-South and South-North solidarity and accountability based on a culture of shared responsibility, for which the role of the regional and local governments, the multi-level governance approach, the respect to the principle of subsidiarity, and synergetic planning and implementation among all levels of government are crucial.

Moreover, the CPMR urges for the Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD) to be adopted by all Delegations of the European Union (DEU) as a methodological framework to implement EU development policy and programmes in partner countries.

As developed by PLATFORMA in its individual consultation response, the huge potential of decentralised cooperation and the contributions of EU local and regional governments should be made more explicit in this TALD strategy. It is vital to enable support between peers in EU and partner countries for institutional innovation, capacity building, exchange of best practices on territorial policies, engagement of civil society and management of EU funds. As a matter of fact, TALD as a methodology to capitalize on the potential of a territory by bringing actors within, around and outside different tiers of government together, is very similar to the approach that local and regional governments naturally follow "by default" in their decentralised cooperation initiatives. A survey conducted by PLATFORMA during summer 2015 with all the EU Delegations working in developing countries showed that most of them solely identify DG DEVCO'S CSO-LA thematic programme as the relevant instrument to work with local and regional governments, while many other sectors of development cooperation include a "hidden local dimension."

#### 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 CPMR would like to echo on this point the views by PLATFORMA in its individual consultation response.

Many dimensions of the EU external policy can impact (positively or adversely) on local and regional governments in partner countries:

a. International trade and investment policy - While trade and international investment policy can support the economic development of partner countries; we call for a systematic impact assessment of international trade agreements and in particular Economic Partnership Agreements with developing countries,

that specifically address the development impacts on territories and local communities. This should include a dialogue in which local and regional governments can take an active role and that is based on geographically disaggregated monitoring data to assess positive and negative impacts in different territories. This will help create a better understanding of development inequalities within countries. This is particularly relevant because at the regional and local levels that impacts of global processes and trade relations are particularly felt: both their direct effects on economic development as their potential indirect impacts on local and regional government functions (governance, infrastructure, service delivery, etc.) and society overall (social cohesion, wellbeing, ...). It is particularly important that this aspect be enshrined in the new cooperation framework between the EU and ACP countries after 2020.

b. Migration, human mobility and forced displacement are currently in the spotlight – We insist on the need to concentrate the efforts on tackling root causes of migration: that is economic and human development – especially at territorial level to better address inequalities within countries – and the effects of climate change. Local and regional governments in Europe and in countries of destination outside of the EU often face the same challenges when it comes to integrating refugees and can build on exchange of experience. At the same time, the existence of decentralised partnerships with local and regional governments from countries of origin can also facilitate integration of migrants in European society because if citizens are engaged with partner communities, they would be more inclined to welcome refugees.

c. Peace and security are global challenges in which local interventions are absolutely necessary elements in a sustainable strategy (see below 4.7). There is a dire need for multilevel dialogue and coordination to respond to these challenges. Local governments can facilitate peaceful dialogues between communities, thus reducing in-country or cross-border conflicts. They also play an important role in state-building from the grassroots level, contributing to stability. In some cases, a local approach to peace-building – through mediation between different communities, enhancement of the role of local governments in community building and reconciliation, community policing, etc. – can prove to be the most efficient solution. The EU Development Consensus should recognise this and set ground for support programmes.

e. Culture in the External relation is also a field where local and regional authorities are particularly important, and the World Cities Culture Report 2015 showed that cultural investment in cities can bring excellent returns in terms of growth and in poverty reduction. Culture is one of the best-developed local government competencies in Europe and it often is an intrinsic part of decentralised cooperation to foster relations and mutual understanding between communities. We insist that all aspects surrounding decentralised cooperation be supported in the framework of the New European Development Policy, and in line with the European Global Strategy (cultural and human exchanges, political dimension, historical links, role of the diasporas, etc.) The Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

programme could help foster territorial cultural partnerships if it would also support peer exchanges with partner countries.

**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)?**

Please refer to answers above 3.2 and 4.1. and below 5.2

**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?**

Please refer to answers above 3.1.c and 3.2.e on the importance of addressing inequalities within countries for balanced and integrated territorial development and territorial cohesion; and of operationalising coordinated multi-level governance and decision-making systems that are aligned vertically and coordinated horizontally.

As regards gender inequality, it will be essential that the new EU Development Consensus aims at enabling and supporting gender responsive approaches across all disciplines and also across all phases of a project or initiative. Besides, working closely with local and regional governments there is broad horizon of opportunity to strengthen the public roles of women in public life, including as elected representatives in those spheres of governments and through participatory planning and budgeting.

The disaggregation of data by all social and economic groups, gender and also geographically will be essential to develop tailored-made policy-approaches for inequalities reduction as well as well as to monitor delivery.

**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 CPMR would like to echo on this point the views by PLATFORMA in its individual consultation response.

a. EU development policy can have an important contribution to ensuring peace

and security of people in partner countries. There are however some worrying trends in the European approach to security/development nexus recently, as reflected by the new Partnership Framework with third countries. Diverting European Development Fund resources towards projects pursuing security objectives, such as border management and control, subjects long-term global objectives to shorter-term concerns.

b. Instead, development cooperation must address a well of long-term global issues such as climate, inclusive economic growth and poverty, all of which have a direct impact on people's security and can only be properly addressed if governments are empowered and capacitated to act.

c. In order to effectively address these root causes of conflict and fragility, local and regional governments should play a crucial role. Problems such as land grabbing and the fight for resources between communities must be addressed at the local level but cannot be done so in isolation: there is a dire need for multilevel dialogue and coordination. Local governments can facilitate peaceful dialogues between communities, thus reducing in-country or cross-border conflicts. They also play an important role in state-building from the grassroots level, contributing to stability. In some cases, a local approach to peace-building – through mediation between different communities, enhancement of the role of local governments in community building and reconciliation, community policing, etc. – can prove to be the most efficient solution. This, however, is not a given in all contexts: local and regional governments not seldom reflect the local imbalances of power at the basis of conflict and need a well capacitated staff and political leadership to be able to act on its potential to contribute to peaceful societies. The EU Development Consensus should recognise this and set ground for support programmes.

d. Moreover, there is evidence of the positive impact decentralisation can have on development, through the strengthening of local governance if and when investment is made in local governance capabilities. It can also help in the fight against corruption by improving the government's capacity to deliver services while being also more transparent and accountable to local constituents. Local and regional authorities' policies towards local businesses can have a significant impact in creating a more favourable investment environment, facilitating the creation of jobs and promoting the local economic development of a territory. They are also key in reducing the vulnerability of crisis-affected populations and promoting their self-reliance by improving the delivery of services such as education and health, upgrading slums and deprived urban areas and designing participatory and integrated urban strategies. An increased attention for the place of women in crises affected societies and in peace-building will assure progress in this fundamental field and help societies move towards inclusive, safe living situations for all.

e. Funding city-to-city or region-to-region partnerships can help achieve this objective of strengthening people's security and well-being at individual and society level. European local and regional governments can provide valuable assistance to peers in fragile contexts when addressing the

triple challenge of creating employment, building resilience, and improving governance. This type of partnership ensures ownership of local governments and local populations of the programmes implemented in their territories.

#### 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 CPMR believes that the EU Consensus should:

- a. Help establish a long-term effective, plural and integrated multilevel governance model for managing migration flows based on a concrete strategy for legal migration, the fight against irregularities, criminality and human traffic, the respect of the right of asylum, economic cooperation, the positive relationship between migration and development, and a more effective cooperation with countries of transit and origin in all areas of migration.
- b. Involve regional governments more and better – systematically – in the identification and implementation of possible solutions. In this sense, it is necessary that they do not simply be the executors of directives from national governments, but be ready and able to influence them to become stakeholders that are increasingly involved in actions towards political peace, dialogue and cooperation.
- c. Facilitate mutual learning on responses by local and regional governments to humanitarian emergencies dealing with illegal immigration
- d. Deepen the multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary analysis of the root causes of migratory fluxes and more effective action for improving its management (exchange of reflections and formulation of specific recommendations).
- e. Contribute to the effective and participatory socio-economic integration of migrants in the destination countries of migratory fluxes and promote circular migration as an asset for economic integration in EU Neighbourhoods.
- f. Support and foster dialogue among cultures and the conditions for sustainable development (in its broader definition and creating interlinkage with climate change and environmental degradation) in the countries of origin of migration fluxes through cooperation actions.

### (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?

Building upon on the CPMR Policy Position "Decentralised Cooperation and the Regional Dimension in the 2030 Agenda" adopted by our annual General Assembly in November 2015, we believe that EU policies should promote and facilitate European and national schemes to guarantee that the revenue and expenditure share of regional and local governments is commensurate with the tasks and services they deliver, including for example:

- Institutional environments to enable the mobilization of finance for and at the these levels;
- Increased regional and local capacity to generate additional revenues through taxation and other mechanisms;
- Tailor-made regional and local funds and access to municipal development banks and/or pooled municipal financing;
- Public guaranteed microcredits to facilitate funding for small-scale infrastructure projects in areas such as economic regeneration, energy, gender empowerment, job creation, SMEs, etc.
- Credit worthiness of local and regional governments to access external funding and to promote sound financial management;
- Green banks and green bonds, and
- Capacity building in regional and local governments for bankable infrastructure project development and land value capture.

All EU policies should also contribute to the revision of the terms of reference for achieving effective private-public partnerships with a view to ensuring strong institutional governance mechanisms and accountability controls on the part of all levels of government.

A copy of the above mentioned CPMR Policy Position can be downloaded from the following link in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

<http://www.crpm.org/en/index.php?act=4,7,3,21>

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

In coherence with our above answers 3.1 3.2.e. and 4.1.b, in the CPMR we believe that EU and its ODA will maximise its strategic impact if it:

- a. Acts at the regional and local levels;
- b. Promotes balanced and integrated territorial development and territorial cohesion;
- c. Enables local and regional government to access funding directly and enhances capacity for transparent and sound financial management in these spheres of government;
- d. Promotes decentralisation and the subsidiarity principle; and enhances accountability of these spheres of government;
- e. Supports peer-to-peer dialogue and mutual learning including via decentralised cooperation initiatives;
- f. Incentivises and supports cross sectoral solutions, systems thinking and integrated approaches, and
- g. Enables multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary partnerships.

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

The CPMR response is categoric and aligned with the ideas presented along the answers above: By helping create capacity for access to finance and sound financial management at all levels of government; as well as by promoting fiscal decentralisation.

Please also refer to answers 5.1 and 5.2 above

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

The CPMR does not wish to make any comments.

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?

Please refer to all answers above in this section 5

## (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?

As already stated along our above answers, the CPMR believes that the New EU Development Consensus should:

- a. Recognise the distinctive relevance of each development partner in a given territory and empower each actor to cooperate and deliver.
- b. Practice a systemic screening for coherence in terms of the actors involved in different lines of action – i.e. decentralisation without involving local and regional governments is hollow and ineffective.
- c. Include the specific local and regional government perspectives structurally when designing policies and facilitating their direct access to international and national funding mechanisms.
- d. Encourage EU member states to include local and regional governments in national delegations to the global processes (such as SDGs monitoring, Habitat III or Development Effectiveness process).
- e. Include representatives of local and regional governments via their associations in the governing structures of the Association Agreements with partner countries.
- f. Screen global agreements and national implementation plans for their ability to foster and enable a territorial approach.
- g. Enable multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary partnerships;
- h. Help replicate the work of European local and regional governments which work not only among peers but also with other organisations and stakeholders in a given territory, at all stages of the process both at the donors' and the recipients' territories, thus increasing local ownership and added value, as well as the local NGO tissue and civic engagement.
- i. Incentivise and support cross sectoral solutions, systems thinking and integrated approaches;
- j. Support peer-to-peer dialogue and mutual learning including via decentralised cooperation initiatives;
- k. Promote institutional arrangements to bridge economic, social, environmental and cultural policies in the partner countries where it will operate and also within EU institutions and legislation.
- l. Provide specific tools for civic engagement initiatives
- m. Enable science-policy interface mechanisms in the interest of guaranteeing flexibility and adaptability in the review of policy-approaches and results over the next 20 years.

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

The CPMR believes that all EU policies should contribute to the revision of the terms of reference for achieving effective private-public partnerships; with a particular focus on ensuring strong institutional governance mechanisms and accountability controls in all levels of government.

## 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 CPMR would like to echo on this point the views of PLATFORMA as expressed in its individual consultation response.

In all its relations with other actors, the EU should take a multi-level and multistakeholder approach. In its own practice it has facilitated a positive evolution towards effective multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder interaction. Albeit not perfect (i.e. the black box between consultation and draft decision remains – and frustrates many stakeholders) it is an interesting experience to be considered when interacting with partners. It will be an important contribution to sustainable development when the EU takes its international partners on board of this multi-level and multi-stakeholder involvement that recognises the legitimacy of democratically elected governments but looks beyond the national state as sole bearer of that legitimacy.

Concretely:

- (a) The EU should push to include the local government voice structurally in its relations to other actors (bilateral or multilateral).
- (b) The EU should encourage its Member States that are member of multilateral organisations to include local and regional governments in national delegations to the global tables (such as SDGs monitoring, Habitat III or Development Effectiveness process).
- (c) The governing structures of the Association Agreements with partner countries should include representatives of local governments via their associations

In this regard, a revision of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) could be particularly timely. PLATFORMA, as the European representative of local and regional governments, was involved in the Structured Dialogue which resulted in the PFD and positively welcomed this opportunity to gather with EU institutions and civil society organisations. The PFD setup has great potential but the current format has some shortcomings. PFD stakeholders

should be more involvement in, discussing the design and implementation of EU development programmes and instrument. In these discussions other DGs than DG DEVCO and other units than CSO-LA should be involved in order to truly achieve the links between different policy aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU, its member states, private sector, civil society and local governments have relevant experiences to offer to partner countries or international organisations. Sharing experiences on local development, territorial development or regional cohesion in economic development will be a meaningful contribution to most partners. Because of the advanced decentralisation in most EU member states, local and regional governments (and their associations) should be awarded a central role- their experience can strengthen the EU position in these relations, but only when the EU recognises their expertise, autonomy and legitimacy.

In the design of partnerships with multilateral institutions or in negotiations on global agenda's (such as UNFCCC, SDG, Habitat, ...) the EU should encourage member states to make local and regional governments part of the national negotiation delegations. As such local and regional perspectives will have better chance to be included in the outcome documents - facilitating the "ex post" localisation of the global agenda's. (see also 6.1). Wherever possible, the EU and the UN system should rely on national and subnational actors (and their peers in the EU) to implement their programmes rather than on international organisations, which often weaken local dynamics and capacities.

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

Please refer to answer 6.1 above.



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?

In coherence with the answers we have provided above, in the CPMR we believe that:

- a. EU Delegations should take a central role in identifying key development actor in a given territory across disciplines and sectors.
- b. EU local and regional governments' experience in international action should be valued and included to assess coherence as they interact with EU member states, partner countries governments and multilateral organisations.
- c. Involving local and regional governments through their representative associations should become standard practice. Regional networks of stakeholders, such as CPMR or PLATFORMA and its member organisations AIMF, CLGF, or regional branches of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) are particularly well placed to identify coordination opportunities.

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

a. As highlighted in the CPMR responses above, policy coherence is the game changer and as such should become the "new normal." It should be understood in a large sense in order to encompass interconnection and synergy between policy areas; coherence and complementarity between policy approaches and solutions; but also coherence between the actions of development actors and of different levels of government.

b. Jointly with policy coherence, a second critical ingredient will be accountability. Regular, transparent and inclusive monitoring and review, with direct involvement of local and regional authorities, academia, civil society and community organisations, philanthropy and the private sector will be key. Please see section 7 below.

c. Moreover, the CPMR would like to echo on this point the views of PLATFORMA as expressed in its individual consultation response.

- Effectiveness of EU development policies depends on the identification of the right level of intervention of the best actor to support at that level. The EU should invest more in applying the principles of subsidiarity in its development policies and work with the most local of possible partners. It should more strategically and more coherently put local and regional governments in pivotal positions for their territories' development and include local governments in dialogues across tiers of government (national and supra-national) .

- Effectiveness should include a critical revision and simplification of the administrative management of financial support. Project-based or results-based approach might not be appropriate when policy issues are at stake. Rather, process-based commitments should be promoted as a means to consolidate democracy and governance.

- Participating in processes to access Grants and in Calls for Proposals is costly for EU development partners. EU rules and regulations are complex and not always compatible with national laws development partners need to abide by. This is particularly the case for government bodies participating in EU funding. Local governments are bound by strict national laws on finances, approval, transparency - including particular timeframes for each. The fact that the EU often ignores this in its Calls for Proposal is a practical challenge (i.e. 3 month period between publication and close of process is too short in a context where the approval of local and regional legislative assemblies' needs to be sought). In the most problematic of cases it ignores the legitimacy of this government actor to be able to govern along national frameworks and based on a local democratic mandate - not the administrative guidelines of an external partner.

- The complex micro-management of awarded grants strongly limits effectiveness and efficiency of implementation and creates large overhead costs for EU and its partners. The EU has taken important steps forward in politically recognising a number of development partners in 6 year strategic partnerships. This should be extended beyond the current partnerships and also trickle down to implementation criteria adjusted to the type of actor that is targeted, so that the funds can be used more flexible and more effective to achieve the goals agreed upon.

## 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?

Please see answer to 6.5 above. Besides, European Regional Policy and the Smart Specialisation Strategy offer very interesting potential for sustainable policy development coherence and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

## (7) Keeping track of progress

---

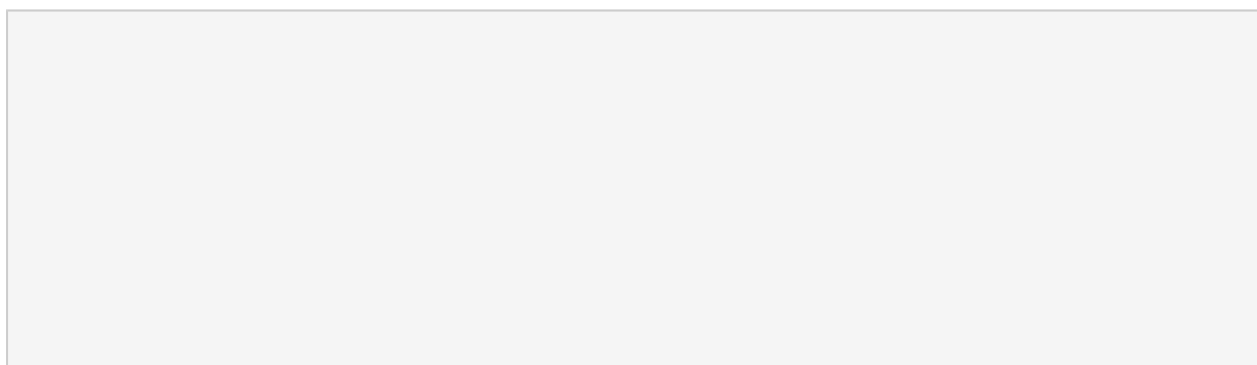
The EU will need to contribute to the global follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Keeping track of progress in a systematic and transparent way is essential for delivering the 2030 Agenda. The EU is actively contributing to the setting up of a Sustainable Development Goal monitoring system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

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

The CPMR believes that the EU should:

- a. Encourage and establish effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms anchored in the principles of transparency, accountability and public access to information to inform management by various levels of government and other stakeholders. CPMR regions and European Institutions could collaborate to set up concrete pilot initiatives with the participation of regions and partners in developing countries.
- b. Promote and enable the collection of geographically disaggregated data, working with national and regional statistical offices, facilitating geospatial information systems and acknowledging the experience of collaborative third party data collection initiatives between local and regional governments and civil society actors.
- c. Promote multi-disciplinary analyses and monitoring exercises.
- d. Encourage and facilitate in partner countries national dialogues between central governments and local and regional governments and their associations.

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?



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

The text below is the combined response to questions 7.2 and 7.3 of this survey by the CPMR:

The EU should promote a comprehensive and robust follow up and review architecture for its development cooperation policy capable of:

- a. Conferring legitimacy to its development cooperation policy in the long-run:
- b. Helping EU Members States stay loyal to their commitment to accountability.
- c. Maximising the potential for impact of SDG11 and the territorial dimension of all other SDGs.
- d. Fostering ownership of the 2030 Agenda by engaging all right holders and duty bearers in its implementation.
- e. Allowing for flexibility and adaptability to absorb the challenges and capitalise on the emerging opportunities that are unknown to us today and hence achieve a follow a follow up and review architecture capable of capturing innovation, both technical and social.
- f. Enabling a mix of quantitative and qualitative analysis and monitoring.

Besides, the EU should encourage a comprehensive and robust follow up and review architecture in different spheres of action:

1. Periodic progress reports on 2030 Agenda implementation. In order to generate ownership of the Agenda and scale up solutions. We are referring here to a complementary set of progress reports:
  - National reports resulting from the collaboration between national, regional and local governments and including strong multi-stakeholders consultations;
  - Reports by the EU institutions with an inter-services approach; and
  - Last but not least, independent parallel (shadow) reports by civil society.
2. A robust multi-disciplinary science-policy interface. The need for a sustained, well informed and active dialogue between scientists and policy makers cannot be sufficiently stressed and represents a key instrument for policy coherence and effectiveness.
3. Regular and systemic reporting on the basis of the internationally agreed SDGs indicators, but also with locally adapted indicators and metrics that can reflect as accurately as possible the progress in implementation in a given territory.

As for the private sector, please also refer to the answer 6.2 above.

## Contact

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu

---