

## **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

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

108487223077-45, 522151923076-35

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

Women for Water Partnership, Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association, ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, Cercle Français de l'Eau, Coalition Eau, Protos, Programme Solidarité Eau, Partenariat Français pour l'eau, Wateraid, Green Cross International, German Toilet Organisation, Women and labour market foundation, Aquafed, Eau Vive

## 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

All organisations mentioned are NGOs working on water and sanitation related issues both in Europe and developing countries (all of them in Africa, some in (central and SE) Asia as well. 2 women's organisations, one umbrella organisations of private operators and civil society groups.

## \* 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

The organisations mentioned are based respectively (alphabetical order) in Germany, France, Netherlands, UK.

## (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?

Most important are gender inequality, growing political awareness on water-related issues, environmental and climate change, public health threats incl. undernutrition, population growth (and economic development) leading to more water stress, migration, growing scrutiny of results from development cooperation.

- Advancements made towards universal, equitable, sustainable access

to WASH, integrated water resource management, transboundary cooperation and water-related adaptive and mitigation measures to climate change will determine the efficiency of actions. An analysis of the SDG's shows that water undermines the success of more than half. Water is a cross sectorial key and connector.

- Growing political will to address water-related issues. SDG6 and the other 8 water-related targets manifest that: setting the tone in being universal, combining the environmental and development agenda, encompassing the whole water cycle, growing acknowledgment of the importance of good governance and “inviting” to involve all stakeholders in taking their role. (gender) inequalities:

- It is unacceptable that large inequalities in access to basic services such as WASH. Many patterns of discrimination, such as those based on gender, age and disability status, minority or caste are consistent across the world.

- Solutions are too much supply and (only) technology based; this adds to inequality instead of solving problems. Informed choices, use of appropriate technology and scale that respond to expressed needs, are essential.

- Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis for biological, cultural and social reasons. Gender equality requires gender-responsive action across the broad spectrum of the SDGs, not least on Goal 5 and 6. Access to uninterrupted safe water provision both for domestic and productive uses is key to empowerment of women. All though the crucial role of women in water management has been recognized since Dublin 1992, recently ILO concluded that women only hold 17% of paid jobs in “water”. A huge gap emerges of tens of thousands vacancies but no people to fill them. 75% of the jobs are depending on water / - related; however water and women's participation is not on the forefront of labour market strategies! Vocational training for women in water-related professions is lacking.

Environment / climate

- Climate change will affect people most through “water” : hydro-meteorological hazards, unpredictable rainfall, exacerbated water stress and scarcity. It affects the sustainability of existing WASH services, extending them to new users more difficult.

- Water scarcity and stress is a major factor in migration; emerging of more poor, single parent (female) households

- better protection of water resources and more sustainable, equitable balance of and allocations between uses incl. nature is needed. 60% of transboundary basins have no agreement at all, only 8 transboundary aquifers have a governance regime. It is crucial to get all countries at the table to ensure joined sustainable management of fresh waters, build resilience and support disaster risk reduction efforts

- Reliable access to a sustainable water source is essential to develop and maintain mitigation responses in energy production and low carbon solutions

- the growing population, economic growth, changing diets causing a widening gap between water availability and demand; enhancing water- use efficiency and alternatives are badly needed

- 80% of used water is untreated; pollution by hormones and chemicals

is a high concern. Re-use of water was identified as priority (EC Blueprint/Strategy 2012).

Health threats and undernutrition

- Diarrhoea is the second biggest killer and cause for undernutrition of children under five years . 90% of cases of diarrhoea, 50% of undernutrition are linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene. Better integration of WASH into nutrition and public health policies and vice versa is needed.

Competing pressures.

- It is counter-productive to pitch disasters against each other and divert spending from development budgets and building the capacity of partners to deliver. EU and Member States need to continue to champion ODA as a pivotal tool in the implementation of Agenda 2030; especially for capacity development, governance and participation, typically in the government domain and proven to be difficult to finance from other sources.

- Public and political scrutiny of development expenditure, integrity and the drive to demonstrate tangible returns are becoming ever stronger. Environmental concerns are a pivotal part of the SDGs, getting more attention of the general public and should be part of funding strategies and mechanisms.

### 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?

In order to better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trends identified above, EU development policy must identify and prioritise areas for community action which can deliver lasting results against multiple policy objectives.

In its policies, EU should avoid ad-hoc and silo approaches, ensure that measures do not contradict each other but look at the connecting issues. E.g. European agriculture policy both “ at home” and externally are not particularly water-friendly. Health legislation in a lot of countries prevents the use of new technologies to re-use water.

Universal access to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene – within a policy framework on sustainable and equitable water resource management – should be identified as a community priority for action in the new development policy; they have a catalytic role for inclusive, sustainable growth. Achieving universal access to WASH is identified as a priority by EU partner countries (for example, the 2025 Africa Water Vision). Also, 93% of the NDC’s submitted at UNFCCC for the Paris agreement mention water measures in their adaptation chapter as a key priority. The EU should heighten their support to the implementation of the NDC.

Progress on SDG 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030 is a prerequisite for progress on many other Sustainable Development Goals. There are strong links between WASH and water resource management progress in other goal area.

- Goal 1. End poverty – One in 3 people in the world live without access to adequate sanitation facilities and 1.8 billion people are forced to drink unsafe water. Goal 1 cannot be achieved without ensuring that everyone everywhere has equal access and rights to sustainable water and sanitation services as well as control over water resource management.
- Goal 2. End hunger– Around 50% of malnutrition is estimated to be associated with poor WASH since people cannot retain the nutrients they take.
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives – Diarrhoeal diseases, which are primarily spread through combination of water, sanitation or hygiene, kill more than 2,300 people a day. A lack of safely managed WASH is the third biggest cause of disease in Africa .
- Goal 4. Quality education – Due to a lack of adequate facilities combined with cultural and social taboos around menstruation, many girls may skip school or drop out altogether when they reach puberty.
- Goal 5. Gender equality – Women and girls are responsible for collecting water in nearly three-quarters of households in developing countries.
- Goal 7. Affordable and clean energy – Energy has a large water requirement; 75% of all industrial water withdrawals are used for energy production . Equitable and sustainable management of water resources – including for hydropower – will be essential for attaining the target.
- Goal 8. Economic growth: The total global economic loss associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation has been estimated at US\$260 billion annually . Water scarcity, exacerbated by climate change, could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP .
- Goal 9. Resilient infrastructure and industry – Progress made in improving and extending water and sanitation systems, in addition to WASH approaches (such as flood-resilient sanitation systems and improved early-warning systems for disasters), effectively builds resilience to climatic change. Meanwhile, unsustainable water resource management and growing water scarcity jeopardise industrial growth (18% of all freshwater withdrawals).
- Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities – Those in remote and rural locations are less likely to have a reliable water source. In cities, the poorest people are often socially excluded, and rarely consulted or involved in decisions about water services. ‘Slums’ and informal settlements are often not served with water services at all and facing eviction, even informal water connections are difficult to maintain.
- Goal 12. Sustainable consumption and production – Agriculture, and especially irrigated agriculture, is the sector with by far the largest consumptive water use and water withdrawal. It accounts for 70% of water extracted from lakes, rivers and aquifers .
- Goal 13. Climate action – An estimated 8% of the global population would see a severe reduction in water resources with a 1°C rise in global mean temperature (compared to the 1990s), rising to 14% at 2°C and 17% at 3°C .
- Goal 15 on ecosystems – 80% of wastewater in developing countries flows untreated into rivers, lakes and coastal zones .
- Goal 16. Governance and peace – The ambitions of goal 6 and other SDGs can only be met if corruption is eradicated, public institutions across sectors function effectively and respond to the needs of the population and if peace and security is maintained.



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## (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?

EU development policy and plans should align with the Sustainable Development Goals and encourage national plans for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and support the implementation of the NDC's presented within the Paris agreement. EU is expected to take a lead in ensuring water-related issues are incorporated and supported in international agreements and national plans. EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the progressive realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA). Reaching this target 'within the time-frame of the post-2015 agenda', the current commitment, could mean peak aid flows are not reached until well after progress on the SDGs is expected. This agreement is therefore hugely inconsistent with existing EU development policy and international commitments. EU ODA should be targeted to address areas of greatest inequalities, for populations, areas or countries suffering high levels of poverty and where countries have limited domestic capacity to respond.

As a donor and global leader on climate change and "water" the EU must ensure that international adaptation finance focuses on ensuring we also meet goal 6 and water-related targets in the SDGs/ transformative agenda in a way that is robust to climate change.

The EC can assist in creating coordination mechanisms in the EU and EC to discuss interlinkages and coordinate funding efforts to enable integrated approaches by governments and non-state actors. Existing mechanisms like especially EUWI should be enhanced.

#### 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?

EU internal and external policies should prioritise community action on thematic areas – such as water resources management, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) – which cross-cut the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and human development). All funding schemes / procurement should include an impact assessment on water.

- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential building blocks for good health and nutrition, enabling better attendance and productivity at school and work – and thus leading to empowerment of women. Through this, WASH underpins individual prosperity and, more widely, sustainable and inclusive growth. The World Health Organisation estimates that for every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of at least \$4 is returned in increased productivity. Conversely, the total global economic loss associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation has been estimated at US\$260 billion annually .

- The link between climate change and water security is evident. As described in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report, changing patterns of rainfall and melting snow and ice are altering freshwater systems, affecting the quantity and quality of water available in many regions. In terms of climate projections, droughts and floods are likely to increase and coastal systems will be affected by submersion, coastal flooding and sea level rise. Both population growth and economic development, especially in poor and middle-income developing countries, will reinforce the negative effects of climate change. Sustainable and equitable management of water and sanitation is essential for resilience building and adaptation to environmental and climate change. Climate change will compound non-climatic drivers (income, water-use efficiency, water productivity, industrial production) of water stress with far-reaching implications for water availability for socio-economic activities and aquatic ecosystems .

- Universal access to the basic human rights of water and sanitation and associated sustainable behaviour changes will be a keystone to the wider strategy of tackling social exclusion and the enjoyment of other human rights. It is unacceptable, for example, that traditional practices lead to exclusion of e.g. women during their menstruation and disabled people denied access.’ .

Achieving uninterrupted universal access to permanent WASH services requires improvement in integration and alliance-building with other thematic areas, including gender equality, health and nutrition, energy, education, finance and the environmental sustainability and resource management. Better integration may mean new institutional arrangements including changes to job descriptions, closer dialogue and partnerships between teams in DEVCO as well as with other relevant DGs.

It was an extremely positive signal that the EC included indicators on WASH access in the new Gender Action Plan. The EU should continue in this direction by integrating WASH into gender equality, health and nutrition, education, finance and the environmental sustainability and resource management policies, strategies and plans, with relevant targets and indicators to measure progress. Similarly, targets and indicators for relevant areas should be included in EU plans and programmes within the water and sanitation sector.

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

EU policy should prioritize and/ or include water and sanitation, they should be more consistent and reflect the role of water and sanitation both as a dedicated target and as a cross-cutting element and prerequisite for inclusive growth and sustainable development and climate change adaptation. The central importance of water, sanitation and hygiene for inclusive growth and sustainable development was neglected in Agenda for Change. This was a significant failure. In its new development policy, the EU should adapt the aims of its integrated water resource management (IWRM) policy framework, as outlined in the European Consensus for Development, to better align with Global Goal 6 and other water-related targets to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.

We suggest the following amendments to the objectives (\*underline denotes additional text):

1. Ensure an uninterrupted supply of safe and affordable drinking water, adequate and equitable, gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene to everyone everywhere and paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
2. Strengthen (or Establish) (global, regional, transboundary) frameworks for the long term protection of all water resources, improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally by 2030
3. Promote sustainable and equitable water use between users and substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030
4. protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes (meet the WFD targets and go beyond the EU)
5. Ensure good governance, combat lack of integrity and enhance participatory approaches (including in the EU and partner countries themselves)

The EU development policy should recognise that achieving sustainable results requires a change in behaviours from development partners, including the EU institutions and Member States, e.g. by supporting capacity development for government and non-state actors on these issues alike, making compliance to international agreements criteria obligatory / non-negotiable for funding e. g. adhering to the OECD water principles, the CEDAW convention, the rights of children treaty, etc.) .

EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the progressive realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA). EU development policy and funding should engage strongly as it did previously in investing

into water, sanitation and resource management. In the current programming period, priority given to water (and sanitation) has been lowered and water has been integrated as a cross-cutting issue rather than dedicated priority, which has resulted in much lower allocation of resources specifically to water (81 mln. earmarked in the Global Public Goods Budget) with objective to highlight the water's leverage effect on economic sectors e.g. environment, cross-border cooperation etc. Under the programming period (2007-2013), more than €2.5 billion were committed in the water sector, which was a focal sector in 28 countries mainly for WASH actions and major initiatives were launched such as ACP-EU Water Facility (9th & 10th EDF): €712 million and MDG Initiative for water and sanitation: €266 million.

We strongly recommend to reinstate a water facility covering the whole SDG6 and water-related targets.

- One strength of the Water Facility was that it directly allocated EU funding to actors from European and ACP countries, both local and national, to drive progress in the water supply and sanitation sector. This financial instrument was immediately successful, proving highly effective at leveraging co-financing from other donors and at fulfilling the expectations of local actors. EU should build upon successful past mechanisms such as this one (the EC current evaluation of the water facility is showing positive results). In order to reach the SDG's objectives, ODA should be targeted to address areas of greatest inequalities, for populations or areas or countries suffering high levels of poverty and where countries have limited domestic capacity to respond.

#### 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?

There can be greater consistency between EU development cooperation on water, incl. sanitation and hygiene and EU external action on human rights, new opportunities through responsible sourcing of minerals, environment and climate change, and water diplomacy.

- The EU should prioritise strengthening the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation:

Recognition of water and sanitation as human rights was reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in 2015 and Human Rights Council in 2010. To fully realise these human rights, the EU must encourage and support the governments of partners countries to deliver and maintain the basic services as well as improve their transparency and accountability, and encourage and support the building of strong civil society

- The EU should further encourage and motivate participation of and/or use of tools of global fresh water agreements (UNWC and ECEWC) in line with the EU external water initiative

- EU agriculture policy needs a revision to address water issues

- Water including sanitation must be at the heart of EU action on climate change:

EU development policy and external action must make a stronger contribution to enhancing the water security of people and communities, including ensuring they have access to sustainable and resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This is a critical component of the climate-compatible development that is needed to help people adapt to change. All progress made in extending access to WASH, in addition to improved water management approaches (such as flood-resilient sanitation systems, new irrigation methods, water storage and improved early-warning systems for disasters) effectively builds resilience to climatic variability and change. It is therefore both logical and necessary that a significant proportion of EU climate finance is also directed towards the enhancement of water security, and that within all water security projects the basic drinking and sanitation needs of poor people are prioritised .

- Action on water diplomacy must focus on building the competence of the authorities who manage and regulate water:

Inequity in water distribution suggests that, rather than international conflict, increasing physical water scarcity will cause continued and increased suffering of the poorest, least powerful and most vulnerable people, at the local level. Rather than postulating about future conflict between nations, we need to focus on establishing or supporting the right institutional arrangements, that can lead to enhanced community cohesion and cooperation over shared water resources – and tackling integrity issues. Safeguarding poor and marginalised people's access to safe WASH in water-scarce areas requires careful consideration of the wider framework of water resource management. The higher the demand on water resources, the more the actions of other water users and the competence of the authorities who manage and regulate water will affect the quantity and quality of water . Promotion for and capacity development that lead to greater participation of countries in the global (international law) frameworks. Promotion of concept like water stewardship, involving business, can be powerful tools leading to better, responsible water management.

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 adds value in its promotion and defence of human rights. It should adopt a more prominent role in championing the human rights to water and sanitation, assist in finding ways for implementation and thus work to progressively eradicate inequalities in access.

- Large inequalities in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene still exist; the least developed countries, and especially the rural areas, did not meet the MDG sanitation target, and only 27 per cent of their current population has gained access to improved sanitation since 1990 . States are duty-bearers of water and sanitation service provision but all development partners, including the EU, can play an active role in supporting governments on service delivery and civil society in translating their rights into tangible measures on the ground. EU development policy should acknowledge that all human rights are interrelated and indivisible from one another. For example, the right to housing requires infrastructure for water and sanitation, the right to education requires children not being prevented from accessing school due to the burden of water collection or a lack of WASH in schools, while water is clearly a fundamental aspect of the right to food, as growing crops and cooking food requires water .

The scale of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) crisis requires coordinated and coherent action amongst development partners. The EU adds value through its convening power and successful support of (existing) initiatives:

- Effective donor harmonisation and alignment with country plans and systems will be essential for lasting progress. There are a lot of development partners active in the water and sanitation sector and therefore coordination and coherence are vital. . We therefore stress the need for continuation of the EUWI (or similar) as a coordination mechanism both between governments inside the EU, with partners and with non-state actors. Modalities may need to be revisited, but not having such a mechanism would be very unwise.

- National dialogues as implemented under EUWI/ ECCAA region together with UECE have proven to be effective tools; EU should further implement and support this mechanism and in addition invite other countries to take note of and join the Water & Health protocol under the ECEWC.

- EU can inform on and promote instruments like the Aarhus convention (and EU directive), the ESPOO convention.

- Business as usual will not deliver SDG6 on water and sanitation. The EU can play an important convening and coordinating role for development partners working in the sector. Joint programming (both between countries and between ministries and groups of experts) offers huge potential for improving aid effectiveness in the sector.

EU aid from Member States and EU institutions have a catalytic role to play in the successful external implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation and therefore for progress in other goal areas.

- There is a significant financing shortfall within the water and sanitation sector. Currently, around a third of rural water systems fail within 10 years and only 9% of urban utilities cover even operations and maintenance costs .
- To ensure lasting and permanent access to WASH, we need to move towards sustainable service delivery models, which can only be achieved through strong country systems. It is estimated the total investments required to attain universal coverage of water and sanitation services are in excess of US\$ 535 billion . Basic services, including WASH, will increasingly need to be provided by domestic institutions through a combination of public, private and household finance.
- The EU is collectively the largest donor to the water and sanitation sector . Helping to build the capacity of its partner countries and CSO/ NGO organizations will be an essential strategy to ensure that, in time, they become less dependent on EU external assistance .

#### 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?

EU development policy must take a combined approach to tackling entrenched and complex barriers to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEWE) by addressing the causes and consequences of inequalities, including lack of access to and bad quality of water and sanitation. Policies and programs need to:

- Acknowledge and understand that women are basically the main water users and managers in agriculture, health care etc. beyond the domestic uses and their involvement in designing and implementing better strategies for water security is crucial for sustainable solutions and effective implementation
- Hear and acknowledge the main priority of women (WATER)
- include real and meaningful involvement in design, planning, decision-making of non-state actors such as women, indigenous peoples that goes beyond the numbers and looks at active roles
- choices for solutions need to be based on informed choices of the users and their knowledge of local circumstances and long-term possibilities (needs-based, not supply-based)
- include vocational training and instruction for women and girls to inter alia be able to manage the infrastructure and services for their communities and acquire paid work/ jobs (this will also contribute to SDG 4.4 and 4.5)
- promote and support appropriate technology design and choices so these can be used by women
- Decentralized systems need to be as much part of infrastructure funding as centralized solutions
- Combine traditional and local knowledge with new scientific insights to improve the quality of the solutions
- Ensure that disaggregated data on gender, location, age, income are



collected and analysed (not combined again at the highest level, making policy implications “invisible”).)

- Support and promote (and join as a large employer as well) initiatives like the Women empowerment Principles (WEP)
- Advocate e.g. through the CSW mechanism for implementation especially of chapter K of the Beijing Plan of Action and support women’s organizations in that frame

The EU’s results-based approach can better incentivise the progressive reduction of inequalities.

- If we really are truly to “leave no one behind” with SDG6 on water and sanitation, there must be clear incentives to deliver sustainable WASH services for everyone everywhere. Ensuring that we are moving all populations up a ‘ladder of access’ to water and sanitation relies on us measuring progress on reaching the most important rungs – basic, safely managed, at home and in extra-household settings (schools, healthcare facilities, work place). By measuring progress against multiple indicators, such as access disaggregated by gender, wealth and allocation, we can better understand the monitoring of improvement in access for different groups. Conversely, with the current political narrative around development being so driven by results we risk simply chasing easy-to-measure results thus disincentivising the delivery of services to the most vulnerable and hardest to reach.

Programming must go further. Ensuring basic services are accessible for all is vital, but it is not enough.

- Benefit-sharing strategies need to be further developed and promoted so balanced solutions also in allocation of water between countries becomes a reality
- Due diligence on impact on water has to be part of all (investment) plans of the EU/ EC
- river basin organisations that work transboundary should be supported and strengthened
- Vulnerable people could still be excluded from using the facilities if negative beliefs are not tackled, so the root causes of stigma and discrimination must always be understood and addressed.. Addressing the root causes of such discrimination can only be done through meaningful consultation and involvement of vulnerable groups throughout programme cycles and with development partners. This process will take longer and progress will be harder to measure, but arguably it can lead to more equitable and sustainable WASH services and poverty reduction for the “bottom quintile” .

#### 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?

See 4.4.

Within its new development policy, the EU should:

- Prioritize water (again) as crucial element for at least half of the SDGs
- Promote nationally-owned and locally-owned adaptation processes, and target countries whose ability to meet the Sustainable Development Goals will be most hampered by climate change.
- Ensure that the impacts of climate change on WASH, and the co-benefits arising from WASH programmes (resilience, health, livelihoods) and (transboundary) water resource management have sufficient priority.
- Follow through on the climate finance commitments made under the UNFCCC
- Provide absorption and readiness support and champion the simplification of process for accurate tracking and monitoring of climate finance flows for adaptation
- Give good examples and use tools like national water and health policy dialogues (see page 9)

#### 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?

Water scarcity and stress is a major factor in internal displacement and eventually migration; effects are also inter alia the emerging of more poor, single parent (female) households and young moving to cities and from there elsewhere.

EU should invest in mitigation and adaptation measures also in rural areas (not just urban) to assist local populations with water management, irrigation, water storage and WASH.

It should ensure that also refugee camps and slums have adequate provisions on WASH and (ground) water management to prevent things from getting worse, forcing people to move again.

The water sector offers great opportunities for new income generating activities.

Educating migrants in water-related fields, will assist in filling the mentioned gap.

### (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?

- \* EU should encourage concepts like water stewardship, CEO water mandate initiatives etc. and thus entice business to get involved
  - \* EU should support developing new financing mechanisms that also create re-packaging decentralised systems to make them of interest to financiers
- EU development policy must be careful not to overlook the critical, catalytic role of aid within the wider sustainable development finance portfolio.
- Most EU partner countries face an increased number of options for sustainable development finance than they did at the turn of the millennium. The increased availability of private finance and some real progress made in lifting economic growth rates has led to an assumption that international aid is declining in importance, even becoming redundant. However evidence suggests otherwise .
  - For many low-income, Least Developed Countries and fragile states, international aid or ODA remains a vital resource for financing development. For more than a quarter of countries the ambitions for a bold new poverty eradication agenda will fail, and the aim of a world where everyone enjoys the fundamental human right to water and sanitation will go unrealised, Unless a significantly renewed impetus is given to international aid . The EU has a role and responsibility to meet its aid commitments and champion effective aid globally.

### 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?

EU development policy should commit the community and individual Member States to the progressive realisation of individual and collective commitments to 0.7% of GNI as ODA (0.33% of GNI as ODA).

- Reaching this target 'within the time-frame of the post-2015 agenda' , the current commitment, could mean peak aid flows are not reached until well after progress on the SDGs is expected. This agreement is therefore hugely inconsistent with existing EU development policy and international commitments.

EU ODA will play a catalytic role in the implementation of Agenda 2030. EU ODA can maximise its impact by focusing on cross-cutting themes. Progress on achieving universal and sustainable access to water and sanitation is a fundamental prerequisite for progress in other vital areas of the Agenda 2030 framework. As pin pointed and detailed above there are strong links between WASH and resource management and progress in other goal areas.

EU ODA must also focus on sectors where progress from the MDGs was

particularly lagging, for example sanitation and hygiene and water resource management (both surface and ground water) . The EU must ensure that no robust country plan aiming to achieve universal access by 2030 should fail because of a lack of finance.

- The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector is under-funded and in many partner countries is highly dependent on external support. Alternative sources of finance – growth in domestic resources, remittances, foreign direct investment and other official flows – will not be sufficient to bridge the outstanding financing gaps in the medium-term .
- Creating and managing water resources is crucial; more financial support is needed to create and maintain those institutions

EU ODA could be more strategically targeted to address inequalities and integrity issues in access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

- the EU should make direct funding for NGOs and CSOs (incl. women, youth etc. groups) possible – that may mean designing different mechanisms for administering that or making good use of expertise of global NGOs/ COs to manage " smaller" and local financing schemes, but at the same time may some a lot of " overhead"

The EU should not (only) pursue 'low-hanging fruit'. The EU can have the greatest impact by targeting support, particularly ODA, to areas, regions and populations which are furthest behind and hardest to reach. Sustainably managed water and sanitation for all means targeted support to people who are excluded geographically, economically and socially from progress, including the estimated one billion disabled people living in low income and developing countries.

- At a global scale this means Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia in particular, least developed, fragile and low income countries and middle income countries where need is high.
- E.g. WaterAid identifies at least 45 vulnerable and under-resourced countries where EU ODA could have a tangible impact on progress towards SDG6 . These are countries which – by virtue of the proportion of their people without access to the bare minima of water, sanitation and hygiene services, their low national resource availability and overall levels of poverty – are counted as high priority countries for aid investments in water, sanitation and hygiene. Currently EU ODA for WASH is not targeted at those in greatest need. Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene will be a focal sector for EU development cooperation in just 13 out of more than 150 partner countries according to plans for 2014–2020 . However only 7 of these were identified by WaterAid as priority countries for external support .

In addition to the issue of improving country-targeting of aid, there are several areas where aid from the EU and its Member States could be made more effective leading to better, lasting results. These include :

- addressing the significant gap between commitments made and actual funds released;
- providing more aid in the form of grants rather than loans;
- support locally appropriate proposed solutions incorporating appropriate scale and technology but at the same time diminishing bureaucracy
- increasing the proportion of aid going to sanitation;
- reducing the strong reliance on project-based aid and look at longer-term capacity development processes (institutional and individual);

- improving the timeliness and level of aggregation of disaggregated reporting.

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

The EU can help partner countries to mobilize domestic resources:

- Strengthening the local and national economic development by improving the country's management of water and sanitation services; and promoting integrated projects involving access to water and sanitation and local economic development.
- Strengthening the role of civil society (especially in developing countries) by supporting them in their work of collecting and tracking information and advocacy and mobilizing national funding commitments for the sector.
- Encouraging the increase in corporate taxation, in a fair and progressive way, to contribute to national budgets and investment for water and sanitation.
- Fighting against corruption, tax evasion and fraud.
- Accompanying partners in low- and middle-income to identify and implement innovative financing mechanisms and new additional sources of financing (through taxes and levies, financial obligations, taxes, voluntary financial commitments,...).

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

The EU can promote solidarity partnerships and mechanisms as forms of differentiated partnerships to help deliver progress on SDG6 in middle income countries where significant inequalities in access to water and sanitation remain. India is such a country, with the greatest number of people living without access to safe water in the world (nearly 76 million people). China follows in second place, with more than 63 million people without access to this basic need and human right .

- In many developing countries the main obstacle to delivering water and sanitation is at the point of local government and municipal authority delivery systems. These failures occur in the extension of coverage and in connections, in investments in the renewal and rehabilitation of infrastructure and in operation and maintenance. The net effect has been to hamper access to services, particularly for poorer communities .

- Local government authorities, who find themselves at the frontline of basic service provision, are key to the achievement of SDG6 on water and sanitation. Yet they can be undermined by inadequate and unpredictable funding and a lack of capacity.

- The EU should promote solidarity mechanisms as one means to support countries graduating from bilateral aid. Solidarity mechanisms, of which examples include France's Oudin-Santini Law and the Flemish Partnership Water for Development - Vlaams Partnerschap Water voor Ontwikkeling (VPWvO), can help address these gaps by providing finance directly to local authorities and building the capacity of local governments and water agencies through twinning.

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 can enhance policy coherence for sustainable development through innovative financing and tax justice.

- The EU and its Member States should act to mitigate the impact of financial volatility and climate change. Implementing innovative financing mechanisms, such as financial transaction taxes, carbon taxes, and international transport taxes can dampen financial volatility, accelerate moves to a low carbon economy, and help meet global funding gaps in water and sanitation and other critical development areas.

- The EU should support partner countries to mobilise domestic resources through action on tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows.

The EU can enhance coherence on water resources management by promoting and ensuring sustainable production and consumption in trade, consumer protection, water stewardship and insisting on sound water and environmental policies.

- EU policies must ensure the accountability of the private sector and local operators (public and private) in regards to its impacts on community WASH by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater.

- EU development policy – supported by other EU policies on areas including trade and environmental protection – should ensure businesses mitigate the negative impacts of their operations and supply chains on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater. Businesses should also be supported and encouraged to implement concepts like water stewardship, monitor water use and invest in water saving and recycling/reuse measures through more efficient practice, technology, and partnerships.

- This accountability function will be important to ensure the human rights to water and sanitation are observed and protected globally.

## (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?

The EU can strengthen its partnerships with other development actors to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement by adopting principles, behaviours and ideas as developed inter alia by OECD and Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership .

The EU/ EC can by supporting the key water alliances and coalitions developed under the Global climate action agenda, assist in the implementation and upscaling of those alliances.

Information exchange with and between the European Parliament and other similar parliamentary bodies in other regions should be facilitated to enhance the understanding by and role of parliaments in inter alia sustainable water management policy setting.

The existing European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) needs to be continued and maybe adapted.

The EU Water Initiative is currently the only mechanism really involving stakeholder mechanism within the EU on water-related issues where more ministries and DGs (DEVCO and Environment) come together with member states, businesses, academia and CSO's and partners. It is a mechanism avant la lettre already combining environment and development issues. The original EUWI specific objectives to which its Working Groups have been contributing are relevant for the SDG implementation as well,

1. Strengthening political commitment to action and innovation-oriented partnership.
  2. Promoting better water governance, capacity-building and awareness.
  3. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water management through multi-stakeholder dialogue and coordination.
  4. Strengthening cooperation by promoting river-basin approaches in national and transboundary waters.
- Identifying additional sources of funding and mechanisms to ensure sustainable financing.

Continue: The EU launched its water diplomacy initiative in 2013 aiming to contribute to shaping a more coherent and effective EU foreign policy engagement in conflict prevention in the context of cross-border cooperation on water and recognising the growing importance of water in maintaining peace and political stability.

This initiative was launched by European External Action Service, and Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 23/07/2013 set the focus on trans-boundary basins, with priority on Nile, Central Asia, Mekong and Middle East.

There will therefore be a need to coordinate between EU MS on their input in the HLPF SD (and water debates). An intergovernmental mechanism at UN level combined with a good multi-stakeholder approach is needed. EU can be instrumental in reaching that and create good governance. Coming up with a realistic participation mechanism for non-state actors has to be part of that.

The EUWI political role needs to reflect this in order to support the national and international dialogues on water issues

The EU should ensure collection and use of disaggregated data and involve civil society in that.

The EU can do more to strengthen its partnerships with local authorities, which will be on the frontline for implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation.

- The EU and its Member States should encourage and support the devolution of the water and sanitation sector.
- They should harmonise and align finance behind national and local government budget cycles, plans and systems.

- The EU and its Member States should also support the design and make greater use of intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to ensure equitable distribution of public finance, with the aim of boosting local government revenue and sector expenditure.
- They should invest in data collection and sector monitoring systems.
- They should consider how to develop pro-active communication strategies in-country in ways that make information on donor finance accessible to broad groups of national and local stakeholders.
- The EU can provide support for systems and institutions that can build or strengthen the capacity of local governments.

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

To strengthen the private sector(s) contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and specifically SDG6, the EU should encourage and help ensure operations observe the human rights to water and sanitation.

- As a minimum requirement, the private sector should respect the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRTWS) and the principle of ‘do no significant harm’. The EU has a role to play in ensuring goods for sale in the EU are not produced via operations and activities that negatively impact on “water” and the HRTWS and other rights.
- The EU should encourage businesses to support and deliver on the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) pledge for access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at the workplace. And initiative like CEO Water mandate
- EU development policy – supported by other EU policies on areas including trade and environmental protection and using tools like provided by Aarhus and Espoo conventions – should ensure businesses mitigate the negative impacts of their operations and supply chains on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by improving water efficiency, managing pollutants, and treating wastewater. Businesses should also be supported and encouraged to monitor water use and invest in water saving and recycling/reuse measures through more efficient practice, technology, and partnerships. E.g. through applying water stewardship standard
- The EU should require EU business to ensure clear access to remedy – where legitimate disputes related to access to WASH have been raised, it is vital to provide speedy, transparent and just responses. EU development policy can also support civil society in claiming and defending the human rights to water and sanitation.
- The EU should take a leading role in bringing together all development partners, including the private sector, improve WASH access for communities. This should entail work with the community to assess and manage risks by participating in community water safety planning and the provision of support for local and national government actions to address water-related challenges in the community.

### 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?

- \* support the creation of an UN intergovernmental platform on water including an appropriate multi stakeholder mechanism (MGoS)
- \* engage across inter alia functional commissions of ECOSOC ensuring ideas and expertise exchange ( see also <http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/Alignment-future-sessions-with-2030-Agenda-21-July-2016.pdf>)
- \* Keep supporting the EUWI and assist in creating similar mechanisms elsewhere
- \* use and support the knowledge, networks and convening power of international NGOs/ CSOs, international umbrella organisations of CBO, Business etc.

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 Global Goals will only be achieved if they are integrated into national planning and translated into policy that aligns with, rather than duplicates, national sustainable development plans. The EU can support partner countries in these efforts by:

- Meeting the ambition of ‘no one left behind’ by prioritising supporting countries, populations and areas experiencing greatest inequalities, high levels of poverty and limited domestic capacity to respond.
- Ensuring no country with a credible national plan for achieving the SDGs, including universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene, should fail for lack of finance. To that end it is essential that the EU and its Member States continue to recognise and champion ODA as a pivotal tool in the external implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Bolstering initiatives to strengthen country measurement of key indicators to ensure timely, high quality and disaggregated data is collected and progress against the SDG targets is being measured and assessed (see also UNESCO-WWAP <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/water-and-gender/>)
- Being accountable as a donor, including: strengthening and using country systems to develop, monitor and regulate WASH services; being an active participant in Joint Sector and regional Reviews; and enhancing government leadership of sector planning processes.
- Leading by example through commitment to inclusive, transparent and participatory Agenda 2030 follow up and review processes. This includes committing to the High Level Political Forum, for example i) participating in Voluntary National Reviews; ii) high level engagement at the HLPF summit in July and around the 2019 heads of state process as the first major point of review; iii) setting interim targets across all goals so it is clear whether progress is being made; and iv) supporting initiatives to strengthen inclusive and transparent participation of citizens and civil society in these fora.

Develop a specific and/ or Engaging with global multi-stakeholder initiatives (SWaI, FSC, MGoS HLPF, etc.) to improve accountability and support coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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Develop a specific and/ or Engaging with global multi-stakeholder initiatives (SWaI, FSC, MGoS HLPF, etc.) to improve accountability and support coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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?

See above remarks on EUWI.

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

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 of reaching everyone, everywhere with access to water and sanitation depends on the existence of a strengthened water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector capable of delivering sustainable services for all. Building these systems requires partners to work together to strengthen sector performance in a number of different areas – such as planning, financing, monitoring and coordination. The EU as a donor and development partner, governments, other donors, the private sector and civil society organisations will all have a vital role to play in ensuring resources are put to good use. One area of particular importance is the effectiveness of development aid. Effective aid enhances the capacity of governments in recipient countries to extend and sustain WASH services, and is a crucial part of efforts to achieve permanent universal access.

Fragmentation remains a challenge, and donors' commitment to strengthening national institutions and addressing national priorities is sometimes overtaken by a desire to maximise short-term impacts. There is an urgent need for the sector to improve its understanding of how aid can optimise progress, and to foster mutual accountability for sector performance.

The EU should take a leadership role in establishing a multi-stakeholder process for global monitoring of water and WASH aid effectiveness. ( see also 6.3) This would help promote accountability and to focus political attention on key reform issues. We recommend that global-level aid effectiveness monitoring for WASH should be focused on a small subset of issues that can only be addressed at global level – for example because they originate in broader donor policy, or would benefit from peer-to-peer debate among countries and development partners. This global-level monitoring should not be seen as the apex of country-level processes, but as a pragmatic response to those issues that prevent aid from supporting country-level progress on WASH, and that are out of the reach of country-level actors and processes to resolve .

## 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?

Incorporate water in all projects and programs – see the interlinkages graph. Do a due diligence of impact on water before agreeing on any project or program.

Coordinate EC external policy and development cooperation and its “partnerships” (Africa-Europe/ China-eu etc.).

## (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 EU can strengthen its own evidence and analysis to feed into its reviews on progress towards the SDGs by leading on comprehensive data disaggregation. Data should be disaggregated by ‘income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context.’ (as specified in target 17.18 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

Support the (joined) strengthening of national authorities and assist in further developing methodologies.

Design methods to incorporate and use citizens data.

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

The EU (institutions and Member States) can encourage a strong and robust approach to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda:

At all levels by:

- Ensuring follow up and review processes are inclusive, transparent and participatory and provide spaces enhancing the capacity of WASH civil

society and stakeholders to hold governments accountable for the implementation of Agenda 2030;

- Supporting the universal and integrated nature of Agenda 2030, identifying decision-making mechanisms or existing policies that can undermine or prevent delivery of WASH-related aspects of the Global Goals and helping to foster a coherent and mutually supportive policy environment;
- Prioritising actions to reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised groups to meet the ambition of 'no one left behind'.
- Adopting and where necessary adapting the global monitoring framework for water as proposed by UN Water
- Ensuring collection and analysis of disaggregated data (as proposed by the SG and the transformative agenda)

At the global level by:

- Committing to the High Level Political process. This includes i) submitting to the 2016 Voluntary National Review process; ii) high level engagement at the HLPF summits and around the heads of state process as the first major point of review; iii) setting interim targets across all goals so it is clear whether progress is being made; iv) supporting initiatives to strengthen inclusive and transparent participation of citizens and civil society in these fora
- Ensuring that high-level initiatives to catalyse Agenda 2030 implementation are undertaken in a coordinated, streamlined, transparent and inclusive manner, ensuring clear leadership is given for each Goal and not duplicating the efforts of existing platforms;
- Ensuring a global intergovernmental mechanism on water and other SDGs that are not sufficiently covered, according to the most recent reports of the UN, by existing mechanism
- Engaging with global multi-stakeholder initiatives to improve accountability and support coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

At the regional level by:

- Using existing regional and thematic platforms to coordinate, foster knowledge sharing, peer review and reciprocal learning around implementation of the 2030 Agenda (like the EUWI or similar mechanisms).

At the national level by:

- Developing ambitious national responses to the Global Goals within an agreed and transparent timeframe, in consultation with diverse actors involved implementation including civil society and the private sector;
- Ensuring national reviews happen regularly (at least every two years), in line with existing national sustainable development plans and draw on adequate data and stakeholder knowledge;
- Ensuring that all stakeholders understand and apply agreed national definitions and standards, and that data collection allows for monitoring both national standards and international monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

In addition, in their capacity as donors, the EU and its Member States should:

- Support developing countries in delivering on all the areas outlined above;
- Support capacity development of both institutions and individuals
- Promote National Plans setting out how Member States are going to deliver Agenda 2030, incorporating views of non-state stakeholders;



- Uphold their commitment to spend 0.7% of their GNI on ODA;
- Bolster initiatives to strengthen country measurement of key (disaggregated) indicators;
- Be accountable as a donor, including: strengthening and using country systems to develop, monitor and regulate WASH services; being an active participant in Joint Sector Reviews; and enhancing government leadership of sector planning processes;
- In the spirit of 'Leave No One Behind', prioritise supporting countries that are furthest away from achieving WASH-related aspects of the Global Goals.

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

Regular reviews on progress of the partner countries towards the SDGs will provide an opportunity for citizens (rights holders), the governments of partner countries (duty-bearers), the EU and other development partners to identify thematic areas, regions or populations where inequalities persist. In the spirit of 'Leave No One Behind', EU external assistance should go on to prioritise supporting countries that are furthest away from achieving water-related aspects of the Global Goals. National and multiannual indicative programming needs to give sufficient flex to allow for adaptive partnerships and a redirection of support in order to respond to national reviews.

## Contact

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