

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

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **(1) Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

## (2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF International)

- 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

International NGO – network organisation

WECF is member of SDG Watch and CAN Europe and contributed to their submissions

## \* 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

Germany, France, The Netherlands,

## (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?

Poverty, gender inequality, public participation, the impacts of climate change and the demographic development are major challenges for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, WECF is convinced that without addressing the root-causes of inequitable and unsustainable development the 2030 Agenda will not reach its goals. Currently the majority of trade and investment policies continue to favour unsustainable economic development (fossil fuel based, resource extraction) whereas all policies should be realigned to support circular economy, reduction and phase out of fossil fuels and virgin resource extraction. We are in particular alarmed of the link between unsustainable economic development and increasing attacks against women's rights and environmental activists, within Europe and beyond. Another serious concern is that civil society's engagement is under threat since funding is scarce for CSOs within the EU. Externally, we can even observe the increase of legislation restraining the actions of NGOs and civil society as a whole.

### 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?

Internalization of externalities for all products imported to the EU and produced in the EU is required, including through o.a. carbon taxes and taxes on pesticides. EU regulation to be amended to ensure that future damage from current activities requires full insurance including for climate related costs and costs from nuclear energy activities. Where this leads to price increases of basic goods and services, support for low income families is required. Further work on tax justice is needed, ensuring that international companies such as google, ikea, air-bnb, uber etc pay taxes over their sales in EU MS, and further steps towards elimination of tax paradise practices in the EU including in the UK, Netherlands etc. Implementation of the Financial transaction tax and allocation of funds for local communities to invest in local sustainable production and consumption, citizens solidarity activities including integration of refugees. Gender equality and human rights criteria to be an obligation for companies in the entire cycle from planning of process and investments to reporting. The interdependency of the challenges require an approach that recognises the linkages and addresses them in an integrated way. The political will to use synergies and a commitment on all levels of governance to cooperate, to share experiences and knowledge and to be willing to learn from each other is essential.

In particular, it is key to involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process. Equal, timely, fair and effective participation of all at all levels need transparent participatory processes. We also call for gender mainstreaming within all policies and programmes in order to guarantee equal participation of women and men and the integration of women's rights within all relevant policies and programmes.

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

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Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require sustained EU efforts to promote a more just world, including a strong focus on the need to address gender equality and women's empowerment. Peace, inclusiveness, equality and good governance including democracy, accountability, rule of law, human rights and non-discrimination will need particular emphasis. The 2030 Agenda also requires recognition of the close interconnectedness between poverty, social issues, economic transformation, climate change and environmental issues.

To achieve poverty eradication, EU development policy will need to take into account key demographic and environmental trends, including challenges related to climate change, and concentrate effort on least developed countries and fragile states. The EU will also need to strengthen our approach to fragility and conflict, fostering resilience and security (as an increasing proportion of the world's poor are expected to live in fragile and conflict affected states) and to protect global public goods and to maintain our resource base as the prerequisite for sustainable growth. Peace and security, including security sector reform, will have to be addressed also through our development policy, as will the risks and opportunities related to migration flows. Tackling social and economic inequalities (both within and between countries) is a crucial element of the 2030 Agenda as is addressing environmental degradation and climate change. Job creation will be an important challenge in which the private sector has to play an active role. Finishing the job of the Millennium Development Goals requires identifying and reaching those people throughout the world who are still not benefitting from progress to ensure that no one is left behind.

To achieve lasting results, EU development policy will need to foster transformation and promote inclusive and sustainable growth. Drivers of inclusive sustainable growth, such as human development, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and healthy and resilient oceans should be an important part of our efforts to implement the new Agenda as will efforts aimed at tackling hunger and under-nutrition. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require a multi-dimensional, integrated approach to human development. Implementation will also require us to address vectors of change, such as sustainable urban development and relevant use of information and communication technology. Our development policy will have to engage and identify new ways of partnering with the business in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, industrialisation and innovation. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda will also require cooperation with partner countries and regions on science, technology and innovation. In all aspects of our external action, the EU will need to ensure that our approaches, including development cooperation, are conducive to achieving the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and that the EU intensifies efforts to promote pursue coherence between our policies and our internal and external action.



#### 4.1 How can the EU better address the links between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and addressing other global sustainable development challenges?

The EU needs to take a wholistic approach including existing human rights treaties and MEA in order to address the inequality which is a root cause hampering sustainable development. It shows that environmental degradation, inter alia caused by climate change, exacerbates existing inequalities (e.g. gender inequalities as well as others). Therefore closer cooperation within the EU on the SDGs and the UNFCCC is needed.

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

The EU should support through legislation and via multi-stakeholder partnerships gender-equitable sustainable development, e.g. via financial transaction tax, fair ETS, equal pay for equal work and sustainable business models, such as cooperatives, energy stock market (which does not disadvantage renewable energy).

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

WECF welcomes the new Gender Action Plan and calls for its implementation, inter alia, by providing sufficient financial means. This includes the capacity-building of EU staff. Furthermore, the implementation of a binding climate change law and the mainstreaming of climate change into all sustainable development plans is needed.

Generally, policy coherence for sustainable development should be a key approach within the new European Consensus for Development. The core principles of the 2030 Agenda need to be reflected and should be leading all policies and action.

**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?**

Greater coherence must be ensured, in particular, by aiming for sustainable economic growth. Human and women's rights as well as climate protection must be at the core of all policies and better consistency between development and tax policy as well as trade policy are needed to not jeopardise the aims of development policy.

**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 has great value-added as a development partner in terms of the human rights based approach, gender equality and within climate change policies. Within these areas the EU has a lot of expertise and based on its legal commitments the potential to share lessons learned with other countries. At the same time it is crucial to open up for real dialogue between countries and between stakeholders within the development sector in order to learn from each other.

**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?**

Root causes for inequality are multi-folded and often difficult to identify. The role of civil society to facilitate effective participation (also of the most marginalised) within the assessment of these root causes and for the establishment of solutions to address them cannot be underestimated. Therefore, transparent, participatory and accountable governance as well as institutions have to be created and maintained for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Gender equality is key and needs to be mainstreamed within all policy areas. This method is not new, but is yet to come to full potential.

#### 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?

Root causes include conflicts for scarce resources, exacerbated by climate change induced droughts, floods and pressure from competition between local community needs and resource use by export oriented investors, as well as lack of domestic tax income and redistribution of financial resources towards sustainable development and poverty reduction and lack of resilience of local communities in face of bad harvests etc. The EU needs to take the lead in working on basic insurance schemes to increase resilience of low income groups with a focus on women and children. Access to SRHR including safe family planning measures, maternal health and safe abortion are essential to ensure both women's rights as well as reduced population pressure. The EU needs to work with EU companies to ensure living wages – in particular for women workers – fair taxes and transfer prices are adhered to, and support partner countries in developing social protection floors and food sovereignty measures as well as support for local affordable renewable energy technologies, including through further support of non state actor activities in partner countries both policy advocacy activities, protection of human rights including women's rights, promotion of citizen's involvement in public decision making, – including aiming at parity for women in policy making decision processes – as well as demonstrating activities that are sustainable and good for people and the planet. All these measures will contribute to reducing conflict potential.

#### 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?

One important measure should be an easy accessible funding program for local authorities to apply – jointly with civil society and social responsible companies – for funds to host refugees and ensure their integration through education and economic activities, this will ensure a much broader acceptance and wider spread amongst all MS. Particular attention should be given to the situation of women migrants and refugees.

### (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 development policy should i.a. focus on creating a legal framework to boost renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. WECF has made positive experiences in working on this sector by working with civil society partners to set up energy cooperatives in partner countries, and combining private funding from cooperatives with domestic financial support from government to aid towards the capital costs of installation. The financial support from ODA to develop decentralised socially sound, gender-responsive and affordable solutions financed also through mobilisation of domestic resources is a key measure to empowers the poor. This can have a positive impact within a variety of sustainable development finance mechanisms. ODA from the EU MS needs to be maintained and increased to allow for low-carbon, ecological and gender-equitable innovation and citizen engagement, monitoring and accountability. EU funding should remain accessible as stand alone funding for non state actors to engage directly or in partnerships, and should not be made necessarily a condition of available domestic funding support.

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 order to ensure long-term effects of ODA spending it is important to support democratic development by establishing stable, transparent, participatory and accountable institutions within partner countries. Civil society needs to be involved in how development financing is used and structured participatory processes need to be established. This can guarantee an active and genuine engagement of civil society. Furthermore, sufficient means have to be provided for the implementation of the new GAP and the tool of gender budgeting has to be used consistently in development financing.

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

A thorough consideration of local and regional conditions and frameworks is key when mobilising partner countries to use their own resources. Apart from that increased efforts to ensure international companies pay taxes and do not contribute to illicit finance flows and underpricing of goods traded, as well as activities to increase transparency to halt corruption and bribery. Experiences from WECF's project work demonstrate that showcasing successful projects for sustainable development and offering opportunities for ownership by real participatory engagement of partners is a good approach on project level. On country level it might be equally relevant to provide partners the chance to real co-operation. Ecological and social/gender labelling of products and preferential VAT and import taxes as well as green public purchasing schemes should receive support of the EU.

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

Great inequalities exist within middle income countries, which is why Sustainable Development Goal 10 is so important, as it aims to reduce inequalities between and within countries. Excluding middle income from access to ODA is not an appropriate strategy, programs that particularly focus on reducing inequalities, including gender equalities, still require a combination of funding mechanisms including grant support for civil society organisations promoting sustainable, gender-equitable, innovative pathways of development.

### 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?

A better coherence between the different sectors is needed on all levels. The mainstreaming concept needs to be refined and used as a tool for projects, regulations and policies for a sustainable gender equitable future.

## (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 should establish more dialogues, participatory processes and workshops with all stakeholders to develop at EU level and nationally platforms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Particular focus has to be on the support and sometimes the protection of civil society's engagement. Many countries try to hamper the work of NGOs by financial and tax restrictions or other means. This trend has to be reversed by showcasing the important work NGOs can provide for the SDG implementation.

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

Private sector investment is important and the establishment of longstanding frameworks for sustainable technologies for investors (e.g. renewable energy, fair ETS, tax systems, etc.) should be supported. However, multinational businesses have to abide by human rights and environmental standards in order to guarantee a sustainable development. Often SME should be supported more effectively. Furthermore, civil society needs support to be more active as investors and e.g. prosumers (in the energy sectors).

**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?**

Too many programs of financial institutions are not yet well aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The EU can make the alignment a key condition for all its partners. The UN system has a key role in helping partner countries in developing legislation and guidelines and to a lesser extent as implementer, as local implementation should best be done by local public and non state actors, including civil society and social responsible entrepreneurs.



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

The EU should lead the coordination of the 2030 Agenda within the partner countries focussing on the core principles. The establishment of networks and platforms is important in order to provide as many stakeholders as possible with the opportunities to share learning experiences and to create synergies (also re national implementation plans). Program to support coherence, and overall, integrated, implementation versus cherry picking need support, as well as diverse stakeholder involvement such as women, ethnic minorities, youth etc.

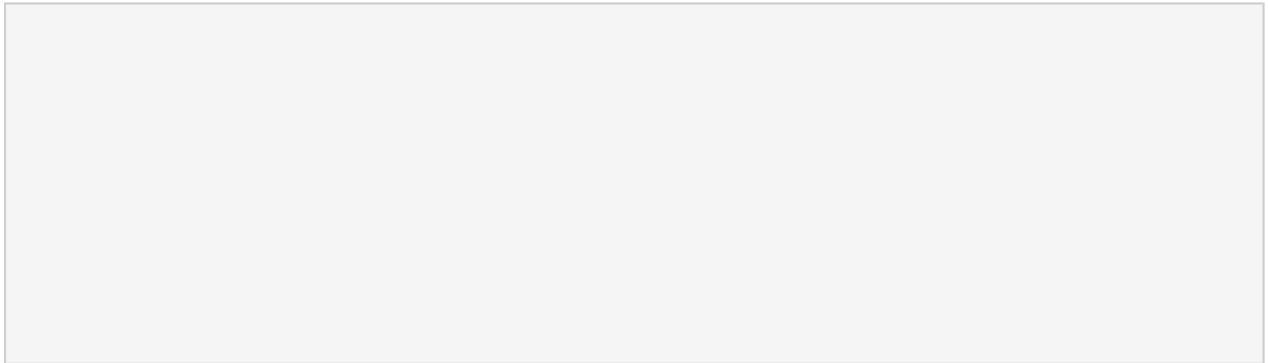
#### 6.5 What are the best ways to strengthen and improve coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and the Member States in their support to help partner countries achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development?

An overarching EU's strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should address coherence between implementation at both national levels and the EU level. However, at national level ownership has to be established at local and national level, across all sectors, - including economic and financial sectors - for achieving sustainable development. Good practices from international process can be adopted, for example, working with a diversity of civil society by making sure that diverse groups such as youth, women and indigenous peoples obtain their own space in the process of implementing the SDGs.

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

Regular exchange of experiences is needed between countries and other stakeholders about successful national plans. Furthermore, a platform for EU projects working on the 2030 Agenda should be established.

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



## (7) Keeping track of progress

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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 and its MS should continue their work within the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and provide input into the strategy for the implementation, monitoring, accountability and review framework of the SDGs. The EU should monitor its progress and its MS's in the implementation of their human rights commitments (particularly relevant for CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action).

**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?**

For private sector involvement international guidelines and principles concerning business behaviour are existing, such as the ILO Conventions, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Global Compact and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. They need to be a key condition for the involvement of the private sector in development cooperation.

Furthermore, the involvement of civil society, including all marginalised groups, and their active engagement should be supported.

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

The need of regular exchange and the coherence of indicators for the MS as well as for partner countries is a key component for the review process of the 2030 Agenda.

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