

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

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

(1) Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Information on respondents

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

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

1414929419-24

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

WWF European Policy Office

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

NGO

* 2.7 What is your place of residence (if you are answering as a private individual) or where are the headquarters of your organisation situated (if you are answering on behalf of an organisation)?

- In one of the 28 EU Member States
- Other

2.8 Please specify

Belgium

(3) Context: why a change is needed

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?

All of the challenges mentioned in the question are important. The EU should contribute to all the international agreements and action plans to which it has committed as well as the overarching principles contained in the 2030 Agenda such as “leaving no-one behind” and “respect for planetary boundaries”. The 2030 Agenda aims to tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and many other global challenges. It takes a long term and comprehensive approach to these challenges and recognises the complex interlinkages between them. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are interlinked and thus no one particular challenge should be prioritised over another. Otherwise, there is a danger that prioritisation of one area would be to the detriment of others and that the synergies and interdependencies are weakened.

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?

Many of the SDGs – such as climate change, food security, sustainable use of the oceans or gender equality – are cross-cutting themes that cannot be addressed in siloes, but rather need to be addressed across a wide range of policies through a range of approaches. In order to harness the opportunities of the 2030 Agenda, the EU and its member states have to work in new ways by addressing the SDGs across all sectors and across domestic and international action, rather than assigning responsibility for individual SDGs to one part of the government or the Commission. Frameworks such as the UN’s 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Production and Consumption are instruments that can foster cross-cutting inter-sectoral contributions. Participatory and transparent governance structures for the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at national or regional level will facilitate an integrated approach and ensure the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development. Lastly, it is clear that leadership, ownership and coordination for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial at the EU and national level to avoid any gaps in implementation. In particular, the EU needs a long term vision for sustainable development.

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

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

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

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

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

There are clear and significant synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Without a move towards sustainable development, climate change will continue unabated; and without action on climate change, progress on development will be halted or reversed. Indeed, climate change and its consequences are already impacting water distribution and availability, biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and ecosystems, and poor and vulnerable communities are often the ones bearing the brunt. Through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, governments have made commitments towards a just transition to low carbon and climate resilient sustainable development, and the goal of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement should be planned in conjunction to ensure that they are mutually supportive. Developing national sustainable development strategies which aim to bring down emissions to 'net-zero' levels will be an important means to ensure both UNFCCC and SDG outcomes are implemented in coherent way that is appropriate for each country and adequate at a global level. Cross-ministerial cooperation will be essential if national sustainable development plans are to be effective. For example, development, finance and infrastructure ministries should integrate climate considerations into national and sectoral planning. The use of climate-sensitive indicators can facilitate the integration of climate change considerations (Twin Tracks, CARE and WWF, 2016).

The EU has an important role to play in supporting climate mitigation and adaptation, access to sustainable renewable energy for all and energy efficiency through its development programmes. It should avoid supporting infrastructure or energy projects which quickly become defunct or stranded because they have not taken into account future climate scenarios. Climate risk assessments at the programming phase should help identify potential problems. Of course, the EU also has a responsibility in all of its domestic actions to set and deliver on ambitious decarbonisation targets.

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 linkages between environmental sustainability, social development and inclusive economic development need to be more consistently addressed. The EU should establish an overarching EU implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda, with political leadership attached to it and covering both internal and external policies. The strategy should set out the role of the EU in relation to implementation at the national Member State level. While the EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2006 was conceptually strong, its delivery has been weak because of a lack of political attention and commitment, leadership and the dominance of economic interests over environmental interests.

Biological diversity is essential for the provision of natural resources such as timber, food crops or animal protein to communities as well as essential services such as water purification, air and soil quality, pollination, climate regulation and flood control. For example, looking at the oceans, if these were a country they would represent the 7th largest economy, representing a total economic value of US\$24 trillion as an asset. Undoubtedly, ensuring that oceans are managed in an effective and sustainable way will ensure food security and that coastal livelihoods are protected (Restoring the Ocean Economy Action Agenda 2015, WWF). Well managed natural resources increase resilience to climate change and sustain livelihoods through providing a range of services and income (UNEP, 2011). The EU can strengthen partners' countries capacity and expertise in natural resources management and conservation, through capacity building programmes and support for strategic environmental assessments in those countries. Tools such as Strategic Environmental Assessments can ensure that environmental considerations are given due weight in strategic decision making.

Environmental sustainability should be mainstreamed into EU policies and programmes for international development cooperation, as already required by the current European Consensus on Development and the Common Implementing Regulation for financing external action. The 2016 EU climate and environmental mainstreaming guidelines for programming of international development cooperation are potentially a valuable mechanism for use at all stages of the programming process, including in political dialogue. The implementation of these guidelines should improve integration which, as pointed out by the European Court of Auditors, has often been weak in the past. An assessment of their use should be undertaken in 3 years' time.

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

WWF would like to see the principles of the 2030 Agenda reflected in a revised European Consensus for Development, that is:

- the balanced and coherent integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,
- a human-rights based approach
- progress which respects planetary boundaries and recognises our dependence on healthy ecosystems
- an emphasis on good governance, including good environmental governance
- a transformative approach which aims to tackle root causes and not just symptoms
- increased attention to climate change and the global commitment to a goal to limit warming to 1.50C
- more systemic attention to policy coherence for sustainable development and the impact of Europe's footprint on the sustainable development aspirations of people in other parts of the world
- reflection on what kind of growth is required to deliver on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement and benefit people and planet

Many of the above points are elaborated in other answers within this submission. One example that provides an opportunity to address many of the above bullet points is the impacts of global value chains on natural resources, ecosystems, inequality and labour rights. For instance, deforestation and the depletion of valuable ecosystems such as savannahs through the EU's demand for agricultural commodities should be addressed both from the EU perspective (the demand for the products and the responsibilities of companies) and from a producer countries perspective (the supply of the products). EU development programmes on the supply side in developing countries could be scaled up, analysing national policies and market challenges in producing countries and providing solutions for better, cleaner and sustainable production in partner countries. An example would be the scaling up of programmes such as Switch Asia and Switch Africa and increasing contribution and participation in the implementation of the UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

As the programming of EU Development Cooperation will be aligned with the sustainable development plans of partner countries, it should also be recognised that environmental departments or agencies are often amongst the weakest and most poorly resourced in partner countries. Therefore the strengthening of local institutional capacity for environmental management will support the integration of environmental sustainability at the planning, programming and budgeting stages and lead to improved environmental governance.

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?

WWF's 2014 Living Planet Report shows that EU countries are living beyond "one planet" levels and are relying heavily on the natural resources of other countries. If everyone on the planet lived the average lifestyle of a resident of European Union, humanity would need 2.6 Earths to sustain our demand on nature. This is the EU's Ecological Footprint. The EU's economic activities and demand for resources are contributing to the depletion of natural resources and loss of biodiversity and habitats (e.g., through overfishing or deforestation) both in Europe and abroad. The EU needs to ensure better coherence between development policy and EU policies that might jeopardize sustainable development policy objectives abroad. For example, 80% of global deforestation is caused by agriculture. Between 1990 and 2008 the EU was the biggest importer of deforestation embedded in products globally, mainly through agriculture products. And deforestation is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions after fossil fuel burning, causing 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions. As a significant market for agricultural goods, natural resources and seafood products, the EU has environmental, economic and social impacts globally, and thus a responsibility for ensuring sustainable management of natural resources in source countries. WWF believes natural resources extraction and sourcing outside Europe and consumption of goods in the EU need to be better linked in policy-making. The EU should promote sustainable development across its policies through regulatory, fiscal and financial instruments, and for instance, a binding target on resource efficiency, to ensure sustainable production and avoid wasteful consumption. The UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production is a mechanism for knowledge sharing, capacity building and the replication and scale up of initiatives and policies on sustainable consumption and production, with involvement of a range of stakeholders (governments, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector).

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 can strategically link its development, trade, climate and other policies to support partner countries in achieving the SDGs and promote the EU's strong commitments to sustainable development, human rights, democracy, the participation of civil society and good governance. For example, one of the biggest successes of the bilateral agreements under the EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade is the improvement of multi-stakeholder dialogue and participation of all relevant actors. Lessons learned from this process should be applied to other agricultural commodities, including the need for greater coordination between the EU and its Member States in development cooperation.
- The EU's legal obligations towards Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and its experience of implementing PCD to date will be particularly valuable in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the shift towards Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD).
- The joint EU commitment to the 0.7% GNI/ODA target and the commitment to development effectiveness principles and actions, including coordination with other donors, the alignment of EU aid with partner country priorities and development plans and the use of partner country systems.

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?

Actions to conserve nature and natural resources are closely related to the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments and live with dignity. One of the most prominent issues at the intersection of environmental conservation and human rights is access to natural resources, tenure rights and security. Tenure security is crucial to sustainable use of natural resources and the realization of substantive rights such as access to food, water, and good health. Yet relative lack of power and political weakness of communities often means that they have difficulty defending their rights in these areas (Springer and Campese, Conservation and Human Rights, 2011). Equitable access to resources implies participation in decision-making about the use and management of these resources and opportunities for access to justice where rights have been ignored or denied. EU development policy should strengthen its focus on improving the governance of protected areas and natural resources management, with emphasis on rights and responsibilities, accountable and inclusive decision-making, free, prior and informed consent and community-based governance and management. Increasing women's participation in decision-making will ensure greater success and sustainability of development initiatives while properly safeguarding natural resources and enhancing the shared benefits of their careful use and management.

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?

Tackling climate change and actions to conserve natural resources can be closely related to the rights of people to secure their livelihoods and enjoy healthy and productive lives. The pursuit of environmental goals can contribute positively to the realization of many human rights and the resilience of people living in vulnerable situations. The failure to respect indigenous and local community rights, for example, compounded by lack of clear and transparent tenure regimes in many places leaves many people dispossessed of land and critical natural assets and creates or exacerbates conflict, poverty and vulnerability. Depletion and scarcity of natural resources such as freshwater, cropland, rangeland, forests and fisheries, combined with environmental degradation and climate change, can be a source of conflict, food insecurity and pose fundamental threats to human security, just as can bad governance of natural resources, leading to depletion through, for example, illegal logging.

The EU should continue to prepare country environmental profiles, as part of its overall analysis for development programming, which highlight areas of potential concern now or which might trigger conflict in the future. EU development programmes can support increased efforts towards implementation of environmental commitments and stronger environmental governance, including through the participation of civil society and communities in decision-making over natural resource management. Conservation measures, good governance of natural resources, strong institutions to implement international environmental agreements and to uphold human rights, transparency and participation in decision making around natural resource use and equitable access to resources are all integral to sustainable development.

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?

While, the current migration crisis unfolding in Europe has multiple and complex causes and respect for and enforcement of human rights and dealing with the political crises in those countries should be the immediate priority, the 2030 Agenda aims to address the root causes of environmental degradation, poverty and inequality and includes targets on climate change, desertification and disaster risk reduction. In the 2014 Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scientists affirmed the links between climate change and displacement of populations as well as the importance of voluntary migration as an adaptation strategy. Additional funding for climate action from both public and private sources is required to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. In line with the Paris Agreement, the EU should support adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience through its development cooperation programmes and shift public and private financial flows in line with the goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

The EU should continue to provide its fair share of financial resources towards the agreed goal of 100 billion USD by 2020 and establish a road map to that end. Climate change poses additional hurdles towards achieving sustainable development and additional burdens on many vulnerable developing countries. Thus, while maximising the synergies between climate actions and development on the ground, climate finance should not displace existing ODA commitments but we would expect to see a simultaneous increase of both climate related public finance and non-climate related ODA, with consistent and transparent reporting measures in place. International public finance for climate finance should be prioritised for adaptation in the most vulnerable and poorest communities hit hardest by current and future impacts of climate change but to which they have least contributed. We realise that despite these international commitments being made and reaffirmed, progress is still limited in their effective implementation.

As recognised in the Council Conclusions on climate diplomacy (15 February 2016), climate change is a multifaceted threat to food security, resource availability, water, energy and health and may be a contributing factor to migration. Thus the EU should provide practical support for mitigation and adaptation policies and locally-driven, participatory solutions and should maximise use of climate vulnerability assessments in collaboration with partner countries. All elements identified for climate diplomacy action by the Council in 2016 should be pursued and reviewed on a regular basis.

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

The principle of universality underpinning the 2030 Agenda will require a differentiated approach to engagement with countries at all levels of development. Official Development Assistance will continue to play an important role in the overall financing mix for those countries most in need (particularly the Least Developed Countries). The EU and its Member States should continue to progress towards achieving their commitments. However, in all countries our development cooperation will need to take account of other sources of finance, including by leveraging other (non-Official Development Assistance) sources of finance for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The delivery of the 2030 Agenda means that our work helping countries raise their own resources (domestic resource mobilisation), the provision of aid for trade, blending* and partnering with the private sector should be priority areas of focus. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, provides a framework for our efforts, including for our work supporting the right enabling policy environment for sustainable development in our partner countries. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be closely coordinated given the strong interlinkages. Engagement with middle income countries, notably the emerging economies, will be important to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, considering the role they can play in promoting global public goods, what they can achieve within their respective countries on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and the example they can set within their regions as well as their role in regional processes. Here differentiated partnerships can play an important role (examples include different forms of political, economic, and financial investment as well as cooperation in science, technology and innovation). Specific attention and focus should also be given to Least Developed Countries, as acknowledged by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The EU's implementation of the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity for enhancing consistency between the different areas of the EU's external action and between these and other EU policies (as outlined in the Lisbon Treaty and in [EU's Comprehensive Approach to external conflict and crises](#)). The EU will continue to pursue [Policy Coherence for Development](#) as a key contribution to the collective effort towards broader policy coherence for sustainable development. In our external action, the EU needs to consider how we can use all policies, tools, instruments at our disposal coherently in line with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

* Combining EU grants with loans or with equity from other public and private financiers with a view to leveraging additional resources.

5.1 How can EU policies, and EU development policy in particular, help to mobilise and maximise the impact of the increasing variety of sustainable development finance, including in particular from the private sector?

Greater private sector accountability, policy clarity and consistency from governments are essential when promoting the role of the private sector in the transition towards sustainable development. There is a need for improved reporting on the social and environmental impacts of corporate activities and more accountability from the private sector in furthering human rights and other obligations in the countries where they operate, through a unified policy and regulatory frameworks at EU level. For example, at present, investors and other stakeholders can be confused by the variety of information and various forms of environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures. This inconsistency hinders comparability of reporting. There is a need for EU guidelines for ESG reporting which provide a clear picture to external stakeholders of the impacts of non-financial issues on business development and the impacts of the company on society, which allow for comparability and which are complementary to, and make reference to, other frameworks.

With regards to the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in development cooperation, the terms "leverage" and "mobilisation" of private finance, through the provision of public finance should be more clearly and consistently defined. Such projects should be transparent and deliver additional value and benefits that could not have happened without the seed money from the public purse. Further, where international public finance is involved it is essential to ensure that development effectiveness principles also apply to these mechanisms and initiatives. PPPs should include strict sustainable development criteria, alignment with national sustainable development objectives, local ownership through participation of local businesses and communities and procurement should be based on competitive bidding. Greater transparency and accountability in the design, choice and governance of these mechanisms is needed and the information should be in public domain so that it can be independently monitored by civil society and citizens.

The EU and its Member States should actively promote adherence to internationally recognised guidelines and principles such as the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the FAO guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of food security.

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 funding programmes should be developed with adequate stakeholder involvement, include strong social and environmental safeguards and build on existing financing principles and commitments such as the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Principles on aid effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Bali Principles and the existing financing agreements under the Rio Conventions. ODA should be targeted at countries and populations where viability of domestic resource mobilisation is low, to directly support essential services in health and education, global public goods, job creation, strengthen institutions including civil participation, good governance and capacities for appropriate tax generation over time.

At an operational level, all development projects should be designed to minimize negative impacts on climate and the environment. Specific climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and development projects should be integrated as far as possible to increase effectiveness, recognising there are many co-benefits. For example, water infrastructure projects need to ensure impacts on long term availability of water resources is safe-guarded. Infrastructures such as public transport, electricity grids, health services and education infrastructure should be strategically assessed from an environment perspective and address the synergies between the environment, human development and economic growth. Much of today's infrastructure is under-delivering its supposed benefits due to a planning approach that isolates economic goals from broader social and environmental objectives. For example, infrastructure projects altering the hydromorphology of rivers, freshwater habitats and water ecosystems are of great concern to WWF.

While aid is important, other financial flows and investments are also instrumental for supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable infrastructure and services. European financial decisions including the ones of European development and investment banks have the opportunity to lead the way in driving support and shifting investments towards sustainable development and climate resilience whilst meeting development needs. ODA is particularly important for programmes and projects that are unlikely to attract support or mobilise investment from other sources, including support for global public goods.

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

Fiscal reform can be part of the solution that integrates good science, good governance and equitable social policy. National governments will benefit from a careful review of their subsidies programs with the view to guarantee that they produce real and tangible and fair benefits for their citizens and the environment. Subsidy reform in sectors such as fisheries, natural resources extraction and infrastructure will play a key role in delivering on the 2030 agenda and growing the revenue base for developing countries. Unsustainable resource extraction - for example in the timber or fisheries sectors - represents a loss in revenues and to the economy of the country concerned.

Sharing best practices in the field of optimal tax designs and subsidy reforms will be a good start. The EU can support its partner countries in building capacity of local efficient tax systems at the national and local level. Tackling domestic tax evasion and tax avoidance through profit shifting remains a significant challenge in mobilizing domestic revenues as well as corruption and lack of governance, especially in the developing world. To this end, improved tax transparency, country-by-country reporting, public registries of ownership, global automatic information exchange and legal sanctions for non-compliance should be put in place. It will be crucial for taxation to reflect the environmental and social impact of economic activities, both negative and positive for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

Further, environmental crime is growing at an alarming pace. Illegal logging, often associated with corruption and organised crime, has an estimated value of 50-152 USD billion annually (UNEP-INTERPOL Rapid Response Assessment, 2016). Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has become a global problem that depletes fish stocks, damages marine ecosystems and jeopardises the livelihoods of some of the world's most vulnerable coastal communities. Up to 30% of the global seafood catch comes from these unregulated sources. A study (Estimating the worldwide extent of illegal fishing by Agnew et al., 2009) estimates that illegal fishing strips economies of more than 23 USD billion every year, with the biggest impact on poorer countries without the capacity to monitor and regulate. Initiatives such as FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) and the EU IUU regulation can help reduce illegal activities which lead to loss of revenues for developing countries. The EU needs to support governments, communities and legitimate businesses to put in place the necessary measures to regulate and monitor at local and national levels and to prevent illegal goods and commodities from entering the EU for consumption in Europe.

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

Middle income countries will be important drivers of low-carbon and sustainable development. They are becoming some of the largest consumers of natural resources, including raw materials, energy, water and food. They also hold enormous potential for low-carbon and climate resilient infrastructure and to shape their financial institutions to promote climate objectives and sustainable development. But middle income countries also face great challenges of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and climate change impacts.

Middle income countries are not a homogenous group. They may still be looking for institutional and technological capacity building assistance and promotion of good governance. The allocation of aid should therefore not only be based on national income but also on inequalities within the country and vulnerability to conflict, climate change and insecurity dimensions. Differentiated partnerships with these countries could take the shape of sharing of expertise in specific areas depending on the needs, policy exchange and good practices, and business-to-business platforms for sharing of expertise and encourage investments and fiscal reforms in favour of renewable energy and sustainable natural resources management.

It is crucial best practice in development and economic cooperation including in south-south cooperation are implemented. With regards to the EU's relation with China in Africa specifically, it is important the two economic powers coordinate their development cooperation, making sure they complement each other and abide by the same social and environmental standards. For example, in EU, China and Africa, the Joint Africa EU Strategy (JAES) and the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) processes are important complementary initiatives undertaken in partnership with African countries and could learn from each other.

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?

Policy coherence for sustainable development is part of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and EU's legal obligation to promote Policy Coherence for Development should be a corner stone of EU future action. The EU should ensure that policies across sectors are reinforcing the delivery of sustainable development globally. During policy dialogues with partner countries - whether in the context of development cooperation, foreign policy or trade negotiations - the EU should invite opinions and debate on the coherence and impacts of the EU's policies and positions as perceived by partner countries. For example, the dialogues on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) have provided opportunities to discuss challenges to the implementation of proposed EU legislation on illegal timber amongst all stakeholders involved. The Cotonou Agreement also provides opportunities for ACP countries to raise incoherencies and the consequences of EU policies with their EU counterparts. Civil society actors in the countries concerned should be given every opportunity to raise issues of policy incoherence with the EU delegation. EU delegations should consider policy coherence for sustainable development in country and regional programming.

Biennial PCD reports are useful to assess progress by the EU and its Member States and identify positive experiences and areas of concern but there is a need for more active promotion of these reports and their recommendations to encourage change across policy areas. There is still little knowledge of PCD and PCSD, its objectives and value outside the development community, which is a challenge that needs to be addressed. The use of ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments should be expanded and improved to ensure that potential impacts of EU policies on people and the environment outside Europe are fully considered and opportunities are provided for participation of third parties likely to be affected. Results of impact assessments should be transparent and regularly scrutinised by the European Parliament. The Better Regulation agenda could be an instrument to improve and reinforce horizontal policy coherence for sustainable development across the European Commission.

(6) The actors: making it work together

An important feature of the new Agenda is that all governments, developed and developing, will need to work with a wide range of stakeholders (including the private sector, civil society and research institutions) to improve the transparency and inclusivity of decision-making, planning, service delivery, and monitoring and to ensure synergy and complementarity.

The EU must continue to work collaboratively with others and contribute to a coordinated approach. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda puts national plans for implementation (including associated financing and policy frameworks) at the centre. To maximise our impact, EU development policy should be based on a strategic and comprehensive strategy for each country, which also responds to the country-specific context.

Our partner countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda will inform our overall engagement and our development cooperation dialogue with them and will help shape our support for their national efforts. The EU should also help partner countries put in place the necessary enabling policy frameworks to eradicate poverty, tackle sustainable development challenges and enhance their policy coherence.

There is a need for a renewed emphasis on the quality of development cooperation, including existing commitments on aid and development effectiveness made in Paris, Accra and Busan* and through work with the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#).

An updated EU development policy should also provide a shared vision that guides the action of the EU and Member States in development cooperation, putting forward proposals on how to further enhance coordination, complementarity and coherence between EU and Member States. Strengthening [Joint Programming](#) will be an important part of this. Improving the division of labour between the EU and its Member States in order to reduce aid fragmentation will also contribute to increased development effectiveness.

* See [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action](#) and the [Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#)

6.1 How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?

While states have the primary responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda and will be held accountable by their citizens, it is clear there must be a broad mobilisation of stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and others to implement the 2030 Agenda. Governments alone cannot deliver on the ambitious programme laid out in 2015. Multiple stakeholders need to be engaged and mobilised if we are to achieve zero-emission, climate-resilient sustainable development. In particular, the EU should strengthen its support for civil society space in governance, especially in countries where we see a shrinking space for non-state actors. New partnerships, coalitions, and inclusive multi-stakeholders processes are needed. We would also expect to see strong engagement from the European and national parliament, the Committee of the Regions and local authorities who will also need to organise themselves in a cross-sectoral way to address the comprehensive and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

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

See answer to question 5.1.

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

The 2030 Agenda brings together the global community under a shared vision. It fostered unprecedented levels of cooperation and trust. Monitoring progress in an open, inclusive and participatory way should engender further levels of collaboration and dialogue among countries. International and regional financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development should create incentives for countries to deliver on the 2030 agenda. One example is the application of social, environmental and economic conditions for debt relief. The EU needs to work together with these actors to promote a shared vision and strategy around the 2030 agenda, advocating within international institutions such as the World Bank, G20 and the UN system for the need to address low-carbon sustainable development and ensure smooth coordination.

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 will need to work with counterparts from different sectors and ministries in order to contribute to sustainable development plans of partner countries and support the integrated and cross-sectoral nature of the 2030 Agenda. Nationally-owned strategies need to be supported by integrated national financing frameworks. The national strategies should involve all government departments or ministries to mitigate the danger of prioritisation of particular objectives at the expense of others, to ensure that national commitments under multilateral agreements are included and promote good governance. Examples of commitments under international agreements include National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, National Action Plans for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.

The EU can support partner countries in developing comprehensive and inclusive national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through promotion of participatory approaches and promotion of policy coherence include leading by example, sharing best practices and capacity building in partner countries and targeted support to local authorities in developing countries to build their capacity to implement the Agenda in line with national plans. The EU should also support governments in convening multi-sectoral dialogues, involving parliaments, local authorities and civil society and translating these into long term national plans for sustainable development and associated annual budgets.

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?

The EU's commitment to Joint Programming is in principle a good way to improve coherence and complementarity of development cooperation and reduce donor fragmentation among the EU and its Member States but efforts to make it real need to be reinforced. EU Delegations and Member States embassies should be the main players for joint and coherent action and effective collaboration on the ground, including through donor coordination forums which include non EU donors. Principles of country ownership and other development effectiveness principles should be honoured. The EU and its Member States should engage in joint dialogue with their national counterparts and ensure a joint meaningful consultation with all stakeholders including civil society organizations. A recent study of the 11th EDF programming by ECDPM (Discussion Paper N180, September 2015) shows that EU joint and bilateral programming were often promoted in a disconnected way and synergies were absent in many countries. Joint programming is often linked to the interests of EU institutions and bilateral interests of certain EU Member States rather than those of partner countries which should be put back front and centre.

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

- The EU has endorsed and is accountable for implementing a range of global development effectiveness principles. In the current context, where countries are looking at ways to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, the EU should more than ever seek to promote effectiveness principles in its development cooperation. It should engage fully and proactively in the HLPPF, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the Development Cooperation Forum. It should use these venues to show its leadership and commitment to move from development effectiveness to a more comprehensive notion of sustainable development effectiveness.
- The EU should be at the forefront of promoting the sustainable development agenda and addressing the root causes of unsustainable development and inequalities. Global commitments such as the Paris Climate Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Declaration on Forests need to be better reflected in the planning and implementation of development policy.
- A survey carried out by CONCORD during the latest programming cycle of the EU budget and EDF funds showed that civil society organisations were consulted in the programming process but that the quality and scope of consultations was often low: organizations were not representative of all the sectors; short notice and documents not shared in advance did not allow for deep analysis and feedback; and meetings were held in an ad hoc manner rather than with a view of setting up a more permanent and useful dialogue with EU. An ECDPM study (Discussion Paper N180, September 2015) shows that while CSOs were invited to public consultations, the outcomes of such consultations rarely guided sector choices of bilateral funding programmes. Instead, it seems that EDF programming has been characterized by a top-down approach and that European Commission decisions often prevailed over country priorities and hence undermining development effectiveness principles. The EU and EU delegations should carry out an inclusive and meaningful engagement dialogue with civil society organizations and support civil society's role as important contributors to more inclusive, sustainable and democratic societies.

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?

Using the mid-term review of EU bilateral programmes and of joint programming is an opportunity to increase coherence in the support provided by the EU and Member States. The new Global strategy for EU's foreign and security policy also provides opportunities for more coherent EU external action.

(7) Keeping track of progress

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

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

As the EU pointed out in the lead up to the UN negotiations for the 2030 Agenda, it will be necessary to look beyond Gross Domestic Product to capture broader and alternative measures of progress towards sustainable development and well-being. An alternative approach could encompass different aspects which span the three dimensions of sustainable development and governance, such as access to adequate food, shelter, quality of basic services, healthy life expectancy, income security, decent work, physical security or integrity and clean environment. The EU and Member States have a lot of experience and analysis on alternative measures that look beyond GDP and we encourage the EU not work with other UN countries to agree a way forward. The development and use of measures of progress that beyond GDP are commitments both in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We also suggest the EU begins to pilot alternative measures of progress to complement GDP as soon as possible for without a more holistic measurement of progress, the economic dimension will continue to dominate policy making.

Secondly, the role of civil society actors, academia, the media and national parliaments in monitoring progress against the SDGs should be recognised and reinforced through their formal inclusion into monitoring and review mechanisms to be set up at the EU and national levels. These actors have a significant role in generating data, monitoring the delivery of government commitments under multilateral environmental agreements, public expenditure reviews, transparency initiatives for natural resource extraction and exploitation, including timber and fisheries, and others. While sectoral stakeholder dialogues are crucial for specific conversations, there is a need for a structured and inclusive cross-cutting dialogue on the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Further, the EU should make maximum use of its research agencies (such as the European Environment Agency, Eurostat) across the whole range of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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?

Business may find it easier to avoid a truly transformational approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, choosing to fund various social projects while not looking into their own business practices and supply chains. We would expect large private corporations to assess their business and practices against all the SDGs, and identify where and how they will contribute and where a contribution is not relevant and why. Policy and regulatory measures that require companies to assess their impacts and contributions to the 2030 Agenda should be envisaged to reach out to the whole private sector and incentivize all actors to implement the Agenda 2030.

Awareness raising, participation of and accountability to citizens around the 2030 Agenda is crucial. A lot of work is still required in the communication of the 2030 Agenda. We need to ensure citizens are knowledgeable about the goals their governments have set, and can thus hold their governments, local authorities and other actors accountable. Of course, programmes such as the EU Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) are helpful but a lot more resources will need to be extended to inform Europeans that this is a universal agenda with benefits and implications for all.

Citizens and stakeholders' inputs into implementation plans must be included through participation and consultations from policy preparation to monitoring, and this requires proactive engagement strategies. We expect the European Union to set up comprehensive, participatory and transparent monitoring and review mechanisms to guide implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the European Union and its Member States.

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

The EU and Member States should maintain the flexibility to adapt their programming, to reviews of progress towards the SDGs, in dialogue with partner countries and while respecting country ownership. Through political dialogue between the EU delegation, the EU and the partner country including its non-state actors, it can be identified where the country requires support, including in the implementation of international commitments made.

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