

## **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

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

We are a working group on Migration that forms part of the LADDER Consortium

- 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

We are a working group on Migration that forms part of the LADDER Consortium

\* 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

Malta

## (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?

We are presenting our input as a working group on Migration that forms part of the LADDER Consortium. Therefore, with this in mind, our contribution will focus mainly on migration as a key global trend which will influence the extent to which Agenda 2030 is implemented and reached within its time frame. We must treat migration not just as a European security issue, but as a global development issue and one that is fundamentally about human development and human rights affecting Europe, its neighbours and developing countries further afield. It is important to recognise that solutions must take this global perspective into account whilst also recognising that action must be taken at the local level.

Europe must recognize that migration does not affect Europe alone. For example in 2013, there were 232 million international migrants in the world, among which were 136 million in the global North, while 96 million in the global South. In particular, pressures caused by forced migration can invariably negatively affect those currently already suffering from under development. By the end of 2013, 51.2 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. Nine out of ten refugees were being hosted in developing countries at the end of 2013, with Pakistan and Iran the largest of these hosts. Children constitute about 41 percent of the world's refugees, and about half of all refugees are women.

Therefore, Migration is a multifaceted development issue. As the UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres had said Today's challenges are interconnected and complex. Population growth, urbanization, climate change, water scarcity and food and energy insecurity are exacerbating conflict and combining in other ways that oblige people to flee their countries. We believe that this makes it a fundamental global issue that must be addressed effectively by Europe.

Additionally, we see the potential of migration for development. Europe must recognize migrants as a force for economic and social development in their origin country and in Europe itself. Agenda 2030 and the European Consensus on Development must make it easier for this economic and social potential to be harnessed as a key development tool.

### 3.2 How should EU policies, and development policy in particular, better harness the opportunities and minimise the negative aspects of the trend you identified in the previous question?

In order to harness the economic potential of migration, we need policies that recognize the positive contribution of migrants, protect their human rights and better manage their movements such as through supporting Policies that promote:

Economic Capital- Remittances to origin country are the leading sources of income in developing countries. Policies need to be implemented that encourage and harness this potential for development.

Social capital and social remittances- Policies that promote and facilitate Networks, business links, knowledge and values between receiving and exit country.

Human capital- Migration can bring a wealth of skills and knowledge to increase market advantage of host countries as well as contribute to the development of origin countries. It is necessary to ensure this kind of migration is possible.

In order to achieve the above, we must promote access to education and freedom to travel for educational opportunities (SDG6), to allow people to develop their skills, qualifications and experience in order to better contribute in their country of origin.

Additionally, development policy needs to tackle the root fundamental causes of migration including but not exclusively: Poverty and lack of access to adequate infrastructure and services (ie health and education), climate factors/disasters, conflict and human rights abuses.

## (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?

For Member states to be able to access and implement all agreements and understand the different agreements and their links, they will need concrete guidance on their implementation that is understandable both to policy makers and to civil society who hold them to account.

In order to make the implementation of these agreements possible for policy makers, the EU should create short term European Plans developing guidelines with specific European targets and indicators, associated to the other agreements and indicators - the NEC - , the Paris Agreement and the annexed agreements and reports adopted on an international stage.

These guidelines will form part of the internal and external European Policy on Development and should be mandatory directives for all the MS. Evaluations carried out on the national level by all stakeholders including civil society and local government will be basis for comparative evaluations between MS to develop new goals and model policies and programmes for the next short term Plan.

On the basis of this EU Plan, national governments should develop annual National Plans for the implementation of the European Plan in their internal and external policies. The EU must support MS in the development and implementation of these Indicators which can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs

The EU should create, firstly a system of control of the achievement of these goals and their indicators and their conformity with the EU Plan and, secondly, a common system of evaluation and monitoring from one MS to another one.

Additionally, it is equally important that civil society and other level of government including local government also understand these agreements, what it means for them and how they can engage and contribute. As such there is a clear role for development education in this regard and the EU should support initiatives to deconstruct these agreements and makes commitments understandable for the general public and CSOs so they are also able to hold the government accountable to its actions and policy.

#### 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?

##### General:

In order to strengthen the balance integration of ESE dimensions of sustainable development, it must make clear within its policy how these are interrelated. It must ensure within the implementation of the policy in both funding programmes and external relations that a balanced priority is given to the three dimensions and their overlapping nature and that priority is given to funding programmes that address economic, social and environmental dimensions within their proposed action.

The EU also has a role in ensuring support to development education and awareness raising around these three dimensions to ensure all stakeholders are aware that development is not just economic and one facet of development can have impact on the other if the three dimensions are not addressed. The EU must support efforts to increase awareness on what sustainable development is and the different facets that form part of it. The EU must make it clear within its development education approach that these dimensions are equally important.

##### Migration Perspective:

The EU itself must also not prioritise one dimension of development over another, especially when looking at other related policies. For example, the EU must not use its development policy as a tool to increase securitisation of the migration issue and it must not tie development aid to action on border control and resettlement. A focus on ensuring security will shift away a focus on ensuring the economic, social and environmental well being of host and transit countries, further exacerbating the migration flows.

This element highlights the need to continued Policy Coherence for Development, to ensure that, for example the new global strategy, or indeed the migration partnership framework does not counteract the good intentions of the European Consensus on Development. These documents must speak the same language when it comes to migration and must ensure that economic, social and environmental development within a framework of the respect for Human rights are paramount in their policy approach.

The EU must include specific objectives focusing on aspects of the SDGs that ensure the ESE dimensions which would in turn reduce the need for migration. For example, the EU should develop policies with third countries to facilitate the resilience of people living in vulnerable situations to face economic, social climate shocks and disasters (goal 1.5) - one of the principal motivations for migration - in particular by 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' (goal 11).

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

## General

We need to ensure we achieve the 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI (paragraph 51 Addis Ababa Agenda Action) and help LDCs to achieve the 0.20 per cent. We need to incentivize MS to achieve this and ensure that Civil society have oversight in this process Eg by supporting the Aid Watch action.

## Migration Perspective

We need to give a greater priority to the role of migrants as drivers of development both in Europe and in Developing Countries and include in the policy means to facilitate this process. The SDGs recognize some facets of this within their indicators which the EU must replicate at the European level, including:

### The role of remittances

- o To create agreements with the different actors and states to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (SDG 10.c + paragraph 40 AAAA) and to develop structures to help families benefiting from remittances to invest in sustainable and inclusive development at the local level
- o To strengthen the empowerment of migrants -especially regarding women- within their origin and host countries to increase their contributions to the society as well as to facilitate their possibilities to raise remittances as an important positive aspect of development aid

### The role of education

- o To systematically ensure the insertion of people on the move in the national school system in host countries (SDG 4.b) bearing in mind the majority of people on the move are located in developing countries
- o To facilitate scholarships exchanges through school partnerships to beneficiate skills' transfers (SGD 4). This could be a key facet of development policy whilst also investing in education systems in origin and transit countries

### Safety and respect of the Human rights of Migrants

Humans have a right to seek to improve their lives and it is the role of European Development Policy to ensure this is a possibility, predominantly by supporting development in the country of origin, however, the EU also needs to ensure it takes a coherent approach in respecting other agreements that it adheres to in respect of migrants rights contained within international and European principals, charters and treaties Eg to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and that it takes action on related issues including the transit of migrants as set out in the Agenda 2030 framework namely to facilitate safe and regular migration to reach European countries in the framework of the SDG 10.7

### Systems of funding, monitoring and data

We must not forget the importance of data collection, monitoring and evaluation to an effective policy approach. This is also true of the migration phenomenon (SDG 17). The EU can play a role in promoting research and strengthening systems of data capture and processing to ensure we continue to be well informed about migration flows, related issues and potentials for resolution of these problems.

The EU also need to ensure a strong monitoring and evaluation system of its funding streams and promote moments of reflection of the implementation of its policies. This includes a focus that takes into account qualitative indicators and not just quantitative especially in the area of the well being of people on the move and asylum seekers

New modalities of working

LADDER is a consortium of local government, national level CSOs, associations of local government and European associations of NGOs and we understand the importance of partnership for effective development. We recognize that different actors bring with them different expertise and different skills. As such we believe that the EU should promote a multi-stakeholder approach to its policy making at all levels, including the most relevant target groups in consultation and implementation Eg to increase, in collaboration with European specialists and beneficiary countries' governments, the participation of the civil society and national experts in the elaboration of the CSP, CRP and Thematic Strategy papers in target countries.

This could also work in favor of diversifying funding streams and using partnership to provide match funding or complementary funding for the assistance being given by the EU, Eg the private sector in many developing countries is in a position to support the Economic, Social and environmental development of its own country and should be encouraged to do so.

Additionally, the European Private sector active in developing countries should be encouraged to reflect on their supply chain and identify potential contributions or improvements they can make to development whilst ensuring they do no harm.

The EU should also recognize that there is global expertise that can be harnessed from developing countries and middle income countries that can contribute to development and as such we should strengthen transnational cooperation by initiating and coordinating further participation of multi-levels actors involved on development activities, in particular increasing South-South exchanges of best practices.

**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?**

Evidently, our primary concern is to ensure consistency between European Development Policy and other areas of external action in terms of how the EU will tackle migration. We are profoundly concerned of the approach that the current and new policies emanating from Europe propose to tackle migration, namely the EU Turkey agreement, the New Migration Partnership Framework. And the EU global strategy, which, in our view endanger the Human Rights of Migrants in order to ensure European Security.

The last summit of the European Council calls for the mobilisation of 'new sources and instruments of funding'. Whilst we agree on the need for the agreement to have funding in place, we must ensure that this funding does not redirect resources away from development aid towards security and border control. The migration crisis can only be tackled with long term and increased funding to development aid and humanitarian assistance to tackle the root causes of migration at source. We disagree with the use of the development policies as a tool of leverage in order to impose flow control policies.

To face the flow of migrants, the European Council and the other European institutions focus on control at the external borders and deterrence against smugglers perceived as responsible for the waves of migrants in the European countries. However, we believe that an over reliance and focus on deterrence and the reinforcement of external border controls fails to resolve the issue and can lead to the development of new routes which more and more dangerous for the migrants. We reiterate the need for coherent policies that promote more safe and regular channels of migration to Europe in order to undermine the market for smugglers and ensure the increased safety of migrants.

We also reiterate the need to concentrate on root causes of migration rather than the emphasis on border controls as a means to combat the crisis. Consequently, as it has said, the European Council should 'remain vigilant about potential developments regarding other routes' but this should happen not solely through the reinforcement of control at the external borders but through working together with origin and transit countries to ensure the protection of people on the move. Decisions taken in order to regulate flows of migrants must consider roots and motivations of migration in countries of origin.

Furthermore, we believe a coherence should be sought by national level integration policies and their possible links to promote migrants as drivers of development. This should ensure that migrants are empowered to become actors in their own development and can contribute to development in their own country. Therefore national level integration strategies should focus on empowerment, education and employment and related issues to ensure that migrants are able to carry out this role in development.

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)?

From our experience EU has greatest added value in its support to civil society and local government and their role in development and recognising also the importance of strengthening the local democratic process, as a means to development.

We appreciate the different funding mechanisms provided by the EU and that there are opportunities for funding for Civil Society organisations

We also believe the EU plays an important role in providing technical expertise and facilitating the transfer of technical expertise to developing countries

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?

Agenda 2030 provides us with a beneficial framework in which to engage and address inequalities which should be reflected in European policy. Taking a rights based approach to the policy will ensure that inequality is reduced as long as it is accompanied also by a focus on protection, good governance and rule of law in beneficiary countries.

Specifically with regard to Agenda 2030 and inequality we believe the following should be included and refined within the European Development policy in order to tackle inequality:

A focus on Education (SDG 4)

- o To improve quality education opportunities in third-countries to reduce brain drain and emigration of skilled migrants, as well as supporting the insertion of migrants into education systems of host countries

- o To facilitate students' mobility internally and externally in order to facilitate the transfer of skills, including supporting the possibilities of humanitarian visas and education visas for persons fleeing conflict and persecution

- o To develop partnerships with foreign universities and institutes to support quality education opportunities for migrants.

A focus on Gender Equality (SDG 5)

- o To promote, invest in and ensure gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in order to reduce their motivation to leave their country and, during migration to be victims of violence including trafficking (5.2 and 8.7)

- o To take measures and focus investment on education and employment

opportunities targeting women who see migration as an opportunity to get out their current situation

- o To tackle factors that keep women in unequal positions such as indentured labour, forced marriage and trafficking, as well as tackling social norms that affect the position of women in the community.

A focus on Fair Employment and economic empowerment (SDG 8 +10)

- o To support an improvement in third countries' labour markets which would reduce economic migration and to secure the respect of human rights of workers within those (for example by supporting workers unions (Goal 8.8: 'Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment').

- o To reduce economic migrations, the EU should target its aid in this purpose. Measures and policies should be developed to reduce poverty and unemployment and to promote access to decent health and education for everyone without distinction of their status( ie including migrants in host countries).

- o Conditions in favor of empowerment, entrepreneurship and education and work opportunities should be implemented and focused on migration destination countries in order to facilitate the positive role migrants can play in society for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

- o To focus on supporting and enhancing the role of remittances in development e.g. To create agreements with the different actors to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (goal 10.c + paragraph 40 Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and to develop structures to help families benefiting from remittances to invest in sustainable and inclusive development.

A focus on Peace building (SDG 16)

Until the EU is able to contribute to ensuring a peaceful and just society, migration will continue to present a challenge for EU MS. As such the EU must focus on SDG 16 -'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'. In order to do this:

- o The EU must promote access to justice in case of human rights violation in third countries. Support can be brought through aid and expertise to help countries to build a safe environment, strengthen judicial and governance structures and respect the human rights of all citizens.

- o The EU must strengthen its role in seeking to resolve conflicts through support to building governance structures and strengthening institutions, as well as providing support to tackling other justice issues such as employment, exclusion of minority groups, economic inequality etc.

- o The EU must strengthen actors involved in peacebuilding at all levels including local governance structures, the police, civil society and education stakeholders.

A focus on Climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience (Goal 1 and 11)

A major cause of migration is an inability of communities to withstand economic and climate shocks. The EU should develop policies and projects with third countries to facilitate the resilience of people living in vulnerable

situations to face economic, social climate shocks and disasters (goal 1.5) in particular by 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' (goal 11).

#### 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?

This is a major concern when related to the migration issue. We are extremely concerned that the EU is prioritising the security of Europe over the safety and security of people on the move. The EU as part of its development policy must address and include measures to ensure the security of people on the move and people fleeing persecution and conflict. As set above, ensuring the safety and security of migrants needs a three pronged approach:

- 1) Addressing the long term structural causes of migration by developing aid policies that address these causes and by promoting bilateral aid that is conditional upon a respect for Human rights, protection and good governance. Where this is not possible the EU must promote partnerships with Non state actors that are able to work with hard to reach populations and in conflict zones and that can respond to humanitarian emergencies and that contribute to building just and peaceful societies
- 2) Focus on promoting development in transit countries to increase their ability to deal with migration influxes without jeopardising the human rights and safety of these countries
- 3) Provide short term alternatives to dangerous migration that facilitates safe and regular migration in the framework of the goal 10.7 such as providing more educational opportunities or humanitarian visas.

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

The first step is to ensure the inclusion of migrants and migrant led organisations within the development consultation through actively seeking out their opinions

Secondly, the policy must increase the place given to migrants as drivers of development. The EU must develop active leverages facilitating migrants' contribution into hosting societies

To minimize the negative aspects of irregular migration the EU must manage development policies in the respect of international and European principals, charters and treaties Eg to respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and ensure that there is policy coherence between the EU development policy and other related policies

The EU development policy must provide for alternatives to the systematic return of irregular migrants without long-term and sustainable perspectives.

New sources of funding to deal with the migration crisis eg the European Investment Bank's initiative on the Southern Neighbourhood and Western Balkan countries and the External Investment Plan proposed by the European Commission's Communication on a new Partnership Framework with third countries on migration must also include resources to develop aid which aims to reduce structural roots of migration and provide for people on the move in third countries

The EU development policy must take on the commitments set out in Agenda 2030 with regards to migration and to focus on:

#### 1/Education SDG 4

- To improve quality education opportunities in third-countries to reduce brain drain and emigration of skilled migrants
- To support the migrants' insertion into education systems of host countries
- To facilitate students' mobility to facilitate the transfer of skills including supporting the possibilities of humanitarian and education visas for persons fleeing conflict and persecution
- To develop partnerships with foreign universities and institutes to support quality education opportunities for migrants

#### 2/Gender Equality SDG 5

- To promote, invest in and ensure gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls to reduce their motivation to leave their country and during migration to be victims of violence including trafficking
- To take measures and focus investment on education and employment opportunities targeting women who are more and more seeing migration as an opportunity to get out their current situation
- To tackle factors that keep women in unequal positions Eg indentured labour, forced marriage and trafficking
- To tackle social norms that affect the position of women in the community

#### 3/Fair Employment and economic empowerment SDG 8+10

- To support an improvement in third countries' labour markets which would reduce economic migration and to secure the respect of human rights of workers within those, including migrant workers Eg by supporting workers unions
- To reduce economic migrations: measures and policies should be developed to reduce poverty and unemployment and to promote access to decent health and education for everyone without distinction of their status ie including migrants in host countries
- Conditions in favor of empowerment, entrepreneurship, education and work opportunities should be implemented and focused on migration destination countries to facilitate the positive role migrants can play in society for inclusive growth and sustainable development
- To focus on supporting and enhancing the role of remittances in development Eg To create multi-actors agreements to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances (SDG 10.c + paragraph 40 AAAA) and to develop structures to help families benefiting from remittances to invest in sustainable and inclusive development

#### 4/Peace building SDG 16

Until the EU is able to contribute to ensuring a peaceful and just society, migration will continue to present a challenge for EU MS. As such

- The EU must promote access to justice in case of human rights violation in third countries. Support can be brought through aid and expertise to help countries to build a safe environment, strengthen judicial and governance structures and respect the human rights of all citizens
- The EU must strengthen its role in seeking to resolve conflicts through support to building governance structures and strengthening institutions as well as support to tackling other justice issues Eg employment, exclusion of minority groups, economic inequality etc.
- The EU must strengthen actors involved in peace building at all levels including local governance structures, the police, CS and education

#### 5/Climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience

A major cause of migration is an inability of communities to withstand economic and climate shocks. The EU should develop policies and projects with foreign countries to facilitate the resilience of people living in vulnerable situations to face economic, social, climate shocks and disasters (SDG 1.5) in particular by 'making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable' SDG 11

## (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?

The EU must continue to push for renewed commitment and action to achieve the 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI (paragraph 51 Addis Ababa Agenda Action) and help LDCs to achieve the 0.20 per cent, including by promoting transparency and good aid reporting.

The EU can promote incentives to increasing the role of the private sector in development and in providing financing for development, through encouraging tax breaks or similar or match funding initiatives to enable the private sector to engage in development funding as part of the core work and their CSR.

The EU has a role to ensure that Aid is spent well and in an appropriate manner therefore it needs to push to ensure that bilateral aid is implemented with the principle of the funding conditionality with respect of human rights, protection, good governance and rule of law.

The EU needs to promote better monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of Aid among member states and provide tools to do so, thereby creating harmonisation on how we evaluate aid and maximize its impact.

The EU needs also to recognize the role of remittances in contributing to development financing and facilitate the process by which remittances can be sent. This includes collaborating or regulating the private sector with regards to profits made from remittances to ensure a reduction in the transaction costs of migrant remittances (goal 10.c + paragraph 40 Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and to develop structures to help families benefiting from remittances to invest in sustainable and inclusive development activities. This could happen by programmes to match fund investment from remittances in developing countries.

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?

We agree that ODA should be targeted and founded on the principals of coordination, complementarity and coherence. We are concerned that ODA will be used for increasing securitization of European Borders and it must not be used for targeting borders' control and return of migrants but for developing real alternatives for migration with projects that focus on peace and conflict resolution, education and empowerment.

The EU has a role to ensure that AID is spent well and in an appropriate manner therefore it needs to push to ensure that bilateral aid is implemented the principle of the funding conditionality with respect of human rights, protection, good governance and rule of law.

The EU needs to promote better monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of Aid among member states and provide tools to do so, thereby creating harmonisation on how we evaluate aid and maximize its impact.

The EU should focus strategically on origin and transit countries of migrants to counteract the causes of migration and facilitate transit countries in dealing with their migration crisis.

The EU should focus its funding on actors outside the normal channels of government- government funding including civil society and local government who are at the forefront of dealing with the impacts of underdevelopment. The EU can play a role in building the capacity of these actors to enable them as change agents in the development process.

Given the changing nature of the causes of migration, the EU need to increase its focus on the root causes of conflict and migration and play a role in combating these. Specifically, a focus on peace and peace education, climate change and resilience, as well as social exclusion and poverty is essential to address current crises.

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

The EU must support the building up of technology, infrastructure, skills and expertise in developing countries and can also promote skills transfers and technology transfer among developing countries themselves. This will enable the EU intervention to facilitate a sustainable approach.

The EU should support the development of governance related to development including the development of national plans to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Aid should be dependent on such holistic plans that also address key issues of Human rights and the SDGs.

The EU can work with developing countries to develop means to raise resources for development such as improved tax systems, social funds, partnership with private sector or tackling corruption and increasing transparency to ensure that aid is well directed and well spent and accompanied by funding at the national level.

The EU should continue to focus on building just and peaceful societies including investing in judicial systems and recourse for human rights violations.

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

No comment

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

Please see question 4.6

## (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?**

The EU must focus on, in collaboration with European specialists and beneficiary country' governments, the participation of civil society and national experts in the elaboration of the CSP, CRP and Thematic Strategy papers for beneficiary country that tackle the key development issues in those countries.

The EU should play a role in facilitating exchange between organisms acting in the same field or regions e.g. to develop system of free access to evaluation reports of projects and initiatives. It can strengthen transnational cooperation by initiating and coordinating further participation of multi-levels actors involved on development activities in particular through conferences, fora, and online platforms and by increasing South-South exchanges of best practices.

The EU should strengthen its approach and continue to provide differentiated funding for categories of actors in the development sector -such as small and local organisations, foundations, business community, local authorities and academia - to support their projects targeting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and the European Development policy areas.

The EU should increase and support the decentralized cooperation from EU local authorities to strengthen their partnerships with different kinds of third country actors.

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

The EU needs to invest in Development Education for the private sector, selling the social and economic advantage of engaging in such activities. This should be accompanied by incentives such as tax breaks or match funding for development initiatives carried out by the corporate sector, or specific calls for proposals with private sector involvement.

The EU needs to promote positive examples of private sector investment to provide incentives and good practice for others to follow.

The EU needs also to promote the investment and role of the private sector in providing non-financial investment for example in technical skills, expertise etc that could benefit local business in developing countries or indeed national governments.

The EU must support development education initiatives in Europe raising awareness of the need for responsible behaviour from the business sector in terms of looking at their supply chain and where they may be contributing to exacerbating problems in developing countries (eg working condition, environmental impact etc) and supporting ways to overcome this.

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

The EU must speak with a common voice on global development issues and not from national positions. The EU must develop common positions and common plans for action in accordance with different international agreements.

The EU must ensure the voice of citizens are heard in this process including civil society and local government and should develop positions based on these and feed these consultations into different international, national and local fora.

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

The EU must ensure the voice of citizens are heard in this process including civil society and local government and should develop positions based on these and feed these consultations into different international for a as well as speak with a common voice with its different partners.

The EU can utilize the internal process of developing European and national plans to provide guidance and a model for third countries to do the same. In order to facilitate this process they can provide technical support to the development of national specific indicators and evaluation systems. The EU can provide expertise and consultancy to governments engaging in the development of these national plans.

The EU should contribute to ensuring that these plans respect the human rights of citizens and migrants in their implementation.

#### 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?

This could occur through the process described above of developing European and national level plans with indicators. These, should be the roadmap from all internal and external MS policies through National Plans founded on European Plans adapted with the national background of each MS. This would avoid any duplication or conflict between MS policies.

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

Development policy must be strategic and targeted to the needs of each country. As such effectiveness can be sought through the development of plans for each priority country and guidelines for national member states about principles and targets that they need to adhere to in pursuit of their Overseas development policy. It will be important to develop a holistic European plan with indicators and a concrete and clear evaluation system. This should be the roadmap for all internal and external MS policies through National Plans founded on European Plans adapted with the national background of each MS.

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?

No comment

## (7) Keeping track of progress

---

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

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

The EU must develop its own indicators and evaluation system through European Plans founded on the SDGs indicators. These, should be the roadmap from all internal and external MS policies. National Plans should be developed from European Plans adapted with the national background of each MS.

Through the development of short term European and National Plans founded on the SDGs indicators the EU will be able to strengthen its own use and review on the SDGs. Guidance going both to policy makers and to civil society for the implementation of these agreements will form part of the internal and external European Policy on Development and should be mandatory directives for all the MS. Evaluations carried out on the national level by all stakeholders including civil society and local government will be basis for comparative evaluations between MS to develop new goals and model policies and programmes for the next short term Plan.

These EU development and implementation plans should be strengthened through the creation, firstly of a system of control of the achievement of these goals and their indicators and their conformity with the EU Plan and, secondly, of a common system of evaluation and monitoring from one MS to another one.

Additionally, it is equally important that civil society and other level of government including local government also understand these agreements, what it means for them and how they can engage and contribute. As such there is a clear role for development education in this regard and the EU should support initiatives to deconstruct these agreements and makes commitments understandable for the general public and CSOs so they are also able to hold the government accountable to its actions and policy.

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

The EU needs to continue to implement a robust reporting system for any funds disbursed in the field of development including any funding or support given to the private sector.

The EU should continue to report upon any initiatives funded and publish such reports.

The EU should support the process of reporting on ODA from member states (Aid watch) and publicize the results of these reports. Financial penalties for non-compliance could be considered. This approach could also be extended to other actors for transparency purposes

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

As per above, the EU can play a role in requesting reporting on progress and using its channels to make these results visible to all actors to ensure accountability of the implementation of 2030 is present.

#### **Contact**

EuropeAid-CONSENSUS-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu

---