



The Joint Synthesis Report – stakeholder consultation

Introduction - background

In the European Consensus on Development,¹ the EU and Member States committed to produce a joint synthesis report on the Consensus on Development including the impact of their actions in support of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries, as a contribution to EU reporting to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), when meeting at Head-of-State level every four years.

The EU and its Member States plan to produce the Joint Synthesis Report (JSR) by Spring 2019. It is intended to summarize EU progress in supporting partner countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It needs to reflect both the Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the universally recognized framework for action, and the European Consensus on Development, which provides the framework for a common approach to development policy for the EU and Member States. The JSR should be concise and informative. It will be based on information from existing reports and, in addition, on views and experiences from EU institutions, Member States and relevant stakeholders. This short questionnaire aims to seek your views on the EU and Member States' actions and policies to help inform the report.

Questions

1. The European Consensus on Development aims to foster stronger, more inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. How would you assess the success of the EU and Member States' cooperation with relevant stakeholders in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs through development cooperation? (max. 0.5 page)

There is general consensus that the adoption of the SDGs has provided an important framework for international cooperation. In this respect, any future partnership should be adapted to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda in the partner countries. In this respect i.a. to support different trade relations, investment opportunities and reinforced focus on private sector development. For such focus an institutional dialogue between the EU and stakeholders should be reinforced which has yet not happened.

2. What are your general views on how the EU and its Member States approach the 2030 Agenda as a whole in their development cooperation? Are SDGs sufficiently addressed? Are there important gaps? (max. 0.5 page)

Yes, the goals are sufficiently addressed and form the basis of the EU's development cooperation. However, what is missing is a closer connection between sources and resources in the EU and partner countries. The link between EU and partner countries is focusing on the inter-organizational and inter-institutional level. It yet does not address business cooperation when it comes to micro, small and medium sized enterprises. Links have not been supported though cooperation will be beneficial both for EU as well as partner country businesses.

3. Based on your experience, can you briefly describe up to three development projects or programmes funded by the EU and/or its Member States which you see as positive examples of how the SDGs are put into practice, and explain why they are successful, also indicating which SDG(s) are being addressed by the projects? (max. 1.5 page)

E.g. **Lab of Tomorrow**, GIZ: <https://www.lab-of-tomorrow.com/node/1> - helps SMEs to address development challenges by transforming them into business cases.

Underlying concept: **Shared Value** - <https://www.sharedvalue.org/about-shared-value> (US American initiative), focusses on SDGs.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2017:210:TOC>



4. Could you highlight some areas for improvement for development projects and programmes financed by the EU and/or its Member States in terms of how they support the achievement of the SDGs in partner countries? (max. 0.5 page)

The potential of the EU partner countries private sectors must be better supported by fundamentally improving the business enabling environment (particularly for micro, small and medium sized enterprises), the trading and investment climate through effective and adapted investment promotion and agreements providing the legal framework that protects activities of micro, small and medium sized enterprises. Besides domestic resource mobilization there should be a focus on enabling cooperation between micro, small and medium sized enterprises in other continents which is presently completely neglected though a mechanism exists inside the EU which could easily be adapted to the needs of such cooperation.

5. One of the objectives of the European Consensus on Development is to support the achievement of the SDGs by partner countries through an enhanced commitment to Policy Coherence for Development as an important contribution to the broader objective of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Do you believe the EU and its Member States have taken this approach into consideration in recent years and could you give some concrete examples (positive and negative)? (max. 1 page)

The dialogue between the EU and stakeholders is underused. Consultations do not take place or too late and they are affected by often rigid and formalized nature, as well as the lack of transparency and insufficient involvement of other key stakeholders. Small and medium sized business are notably left out of the consultation process. The scope of the dialogue should be broadened to be as comprehensive as possible and include not only multinational companies. A greater involvement of key stakeholders is absolutely necessary. EU Member States and their efforts should be taken into account when providing EU funds to provide for more leverage and strengthen the synergies.

6. The European Consensus on Development underlines the need to address the interlinkages between the different SDGs through integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way, as well as address trade-offs effectively. Do you have examples of how the EU and its Member States have been able to address such interlinkages in their development policy? (max. 1 page).

The consensus has contributed to making substantial progress on human development. Poverty could be reduced, gender equality and empowerment of women supported. The following specific goals, were addressed: education (SDG 4) and health (SDG 3) decent employment, especially for the youth (SDG 8); poverty reduction-inequality nexus (SDG 10), environmental sustainability and climate change (SDG 13), gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and youth (SDG 5).

7. Do you have any other suggestions for content or key messages in the Joint Synthesis Report? (max 0.5 page)

EU's small and medium sized companies in their role to achieve the SDGs with partners in other continents should fundamentally be supported by the EU and partner countries. Such support should not be limited to offer investment opportunities for bankable projects but rather be based on a holistic approach taking into account all phases of business cooperation between EU member states entities and business in partner countries. All efforts to strengthen cooperation between the EU's business and those in partner countries must be politically and economically supported. The EU should support testing the identification of appropriate and relevant business for such cooperation between EU and partner countries business. Such support should aim at developing a framework for shared value business contributing to economic development and pursuing SDGs goals. Forming relevant economic associations in partner countries and continents would be needed as part of the new holistic approach.