

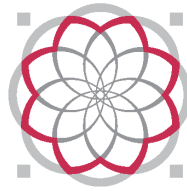


annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

ANND Input for the Public Consultation on Revising the European Consensus on Development

This document includes the input provided by the Arab NGO Network for Development to the Public consultation on revising the European Consensus on Development. The consultation sought 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.



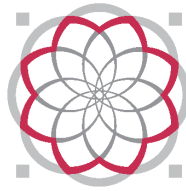
annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

This document includes the input provided by the Arab NGO Network for Development to the Public consultation on revising the European Consensus on Development. The consultation sought 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. ANND input as answers to the set of questions can be found below:

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?

MDGs had a limited approach, based on a set of Goals trying to address the symptoms of poverty rather than addressing the structural flaws. The MDGs implementation could not ensure a global enabling environment for development by addressing systemic challenges including the reform of the trading system and how it should support development efforts instead of being an obstacle in front of productive development. It could not address the debt crisis that is preventing from mobilizing resources for development, could not alter the policy of aid, nor ensure the technology transfer. But most importantly the efforts to establish peace and security based on the respect of human rights were left aside; as well as the reform of the global system, including the UN and the IFIs towards more participation and democracy. In this context, with regard to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and revising the Consensus, the European Union should not proceed with identification priorities as “most important” and focusing only on some global challenges and overshadowing some others. This would restrict the added value the EU has as a global power. The EU should rather take the review as an occasion to adopt and implement a new and comprehensive development paradigm that integrates and considers the inter-relatedness of all these challenges. This requires paying equal attention to structural, economic, social, demographic, geographic challenges and others; that generate inequalities and affect the countries capacities and options. The EU should consider the fact that failures of the MDG well reflected that achieving the goals is not just a matter of funding and commitments, rather it is an issue of patterns and policies at the macro-economic, financial and social development levels. Therefore the development model the EU supports should be a reformed trading system and a shift from the decade-old conundrum “Liberalization for the sake of Liberalization” to a “Strategic Integration Concept”. Inclusive, sustainable and redistributive growth as well as the enhancement of productive capacities would be at its center.



annd

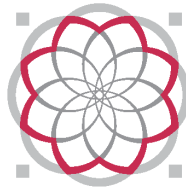
Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

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

EU's adherence to Lisbon Treaty and full commitment Article 21 of the Treaty on EU, principally policy coherence for development is key to ensure that EU policies better harness opportunities and minimize the negative aspects of development challenges we face. Policy coherence requires EU to consolidate the relations between human rights and policies. It should strengthen a human rights framework, in which the universality, indivisibility and inter-relatedness of all human rights are recognized. In this respect, the EU should work and cooperate together along with its southern neighbors and partners (and other developing countries) targeting all the facets of global sustainable development in a consolidated and coherent manner. The EU should adopt its policy-making process as well, taking into consideration the impacts of previous policy implementations (i.e. of trade, security, migration, aid...etc.) at all levels (social, economic, political...etc.). These impact assessments should serve as indicators and benchmarks for future policies and development policy in particular. The EU should moreover base its policies on international human rights commitments, a feature it often promotes yet rarely enforces in its policies. Furthermore, the EU should ensure its commitment towards development effectiveness principles, including national ownership, transparency, partnerships for development and mutual accountability to minimize any negative aspect that development policy can result into.

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

The Agenda 2030 is a universal document, it was the result of the widest worldwide consultations and adopted by the General Assembly of the UN. These global commitments undertaken should be adopted as comprehensive and universal legally binding agenda and not remain as set of goals and indicators to be fulfilled technically. On the other hand, the Paris Agreement has still a way to go to enter into force and become binding for the different involved and concerned parties. These two important agreements should be legally binding and based on the "Common but Differentiated Responsibility" principle. They require strong political will and monitoring and accountability mechanisms. In this regard, apart from the EU's own steps taken towards Paris Agreement or in SDG implementation, it is vital that all member states and EU financial institutions implementation reflect a strong and coherent stance. For instance, as noted by the EESC within the framework of Paris Agreement, emissions reduction



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

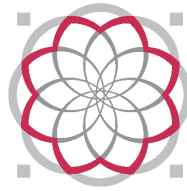
targets submitted by the individual Member States (INDCs) do not correlate with the results achieved in Paris. On the other, the European Banks, namely the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development fossil fuel lending continue in developing countries, being contrary to the EU's fight against climate change.

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?

Within its internal and external policies, and in particular in its development policy, the EU should consider the Goals qualitatively and quantitatively to ensure a balanced integration. Rather than evaluating achievements in each Goal separately, complementarity, coherency and coordination should be enhanced among the different EU directorates, member states, institutions and policies. Furthermore, particularly in its external policies, the EU must seek to link and operationalize results-based programmes within the framework of overall national development policies to avoid interventions that do not achieve accumulative effect. Such programs ought to be inclusive, participatory and drawn together with the partner countries. They ought to be based on country needs assessments, so that EU support addresses the development challenges. This should be based on the aid effectiveness principles that the EU adopted and supports. The programmes/projects/support designed in partnership with national authorities and with genuine inclusion of civil society voices and participation, and prioritization of domestic needs, help to integrate diverse sustainable development challenges. Moreover, such action would ensure to achieve real ownership, constructive outcomes, and avoid ad-hoc thematic and disconnected short-term programmes.

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

Development should be people centered. The EU Development policy framework should focus addressing inequality as a main challenge identified during the last years of consultation of the sustainable development agenda. It should favour the development role of the state, the policy space and the engagement of diverse actors. The respecting of the national ownership and the country system will empower them. It helps in building their capacities and enhance their resilience. In this regard, a key element should be brought by this consultation is to ensure full respect to the principles of aid and development effectiveness. Equally important is that the EU development policy framework should be rights-based. These principles include the common but



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

differentiated responsibilities and policy coherence for development (i.e. linking trade and investment policies to development). Each of them is vital to enable efficiency in EU development policy and cooperation.

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?

As the Lisbon Treaty clearly stipulates, EU external action should be based on the principles of its own constitution. These principles notably include democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, policy coherence, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. The European Union is thus expected to be consistent to these above principles in its future development policies. This is why it is imperative for the EU to actively enforce, in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the universal respect for these principles of its own foundation.

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 main constitutional values of the EU are: Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. They are well enshrined in the EU treaties. The EU added value is the mainstream these principles in the partnership framework for development. In this regard, the EU is supposed to promote the dialogue with its neighbors about the common challenges and mutual responsibilities.

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?

The EU should adopt a human rights-based approach when addressing inequalities. It is also important to consider countries' specificities when implementing the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, sustainable development goals are to be universal but the way of attaining them needs to be adapted to different domestic situations. In fact, structural reform policies should take into consideration the previous experiences and based on a comprehensive and objective assessment. There is a belief that these reforms triggered inequalities by increasing poverty and unemployment. Therefore, the EU should undertake a full assessment of these previous policies and refine its development policy in order to allow



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

for more equitable social protection, fair wealth distribution, just taxation, and ensuring full enjoyment to human rights to food, water, decent housing, education and employment for all.

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?

The spill over effect imposes the need to properly address the political unrest as a root cause of the conflicts. Moreover, political unrest is strongly linked to economic and social deprivations. The continuous security and military threats pose one of the major hurdles for the development process and resources. However, there is a setback in realizing the complex interlinks between peace, security, the respect of Human rights, democracy and development. In this regard, with respect to tackling the nexus between security and development, especially in fragile and conflict-prone countries, the EU must seek to expand the support to other civic actors, not only among the service providers and humanitarian actors, but also to the agents for change and democratization. It should be fostering the link between relief, rehabilitation, development and democratization. It is important to look at the regional dimension of the conflicts as well, including the different factors of turbulence counting the struggle of the Palestinian people for its right to self-determination.

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?

Tackling migration should take into consideration its different motives. Consequently, a comprehensive approach should take into consideration the different aspects of migration. However, a comprehensive migration approach should go beyond the security threats towards addressing the root causes of migration, including humanitarian, political, social and economic, cultural and environmental conditions. In this regard, migration should be introduced as a main indicator in assessing the impact of sustainability and social and economic policies. It is thus important for the EU to further increase and consolidate its partnerships with the southern countries of origin with the highest numbers of migrants. Partnerships should be coherent with all the EU Human Rights and democracy principles, respond to the core challenges triggering inequality and create the enabling environment for development.



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

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?

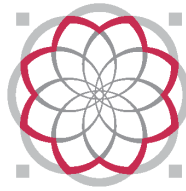
The pillars of the partnership are mainly three: Aid, Trade and Debt. Surprisingly, the Agenda 2030 suggests a significant role for the private sector and undermines the other pillars. In fact, the EU is pledging to raise the ODA to .7%, however, the DA within the aid architecture will be reduced in favour of security, defence, humanitarian and inclusion of the migrants (OECD High level Meeting in February 2016). Moreover, the EU considers the private investors as the engine of inclusive growth, decent jobs creation, efficient provision of public services and goods. Nevertheless, the lack of any mechanism enhancing transparency, accountability and responsibility is the main challenge in this regard. Indeed, a legally binding international instrument on business and Human Rights is still missing. In this regard, the role of the EU is expected to champion the protection of the rights and the binding standards from the different threats whether from the public, private or military sectors.

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?

ODA should be about addressing inequalities and development challenges. In this regard, the EU should escape using its ODA in more security-related expenditure and as a tool to pursue its own security agenda. Indeed, given the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) High Level Meeting in February 2016, the change introduced in ODA-eligibility remains a key concern for Southern partners. Considering security, defense, humanitarian and integration of the migrants expenditures as eligible part of ODA would hamper means of implementation for the Agenda 2030.

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

Mobilizing domestic resources should be based on diversifying and enlarging the national economies, enhancing productive capacities mainly in sectors with value added. This should take into consideration the role of the developmental state, decentralization, policy space and transparent and participatory decision making process with an efficient tool for monitoring and accountability. Nonetheless, mobilizing domestic resources through tax reform while creating the environment for investments, promoting tax avoidance



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

neglecting tax evasion and calling for the implementation of strict austerity measures will backfire the efforts and trigger inequalities. The priorities should be fighting corruption, tax havens and illicit financial flows, ensuring the regular reporting of European businesses and private companies on tax payments, along with their impacts on sustainable development and human rights. Finally, it is important to encourage the inclusive and comprehensive social dialogue among the various national economic and social actors and with the partner countries on different key issues including on tax systems and their reform.

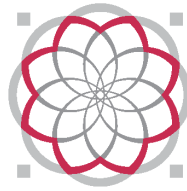
Given the importance of middle income countries to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, what form could differentiated partnerships take?

Experiences had showed that the income is not a relevant tool to measure development and the capacities to implement the agenda 2030; in fact Syria, Tunis, Egypt, Libya and others were considered middle income but failed to address challenges related to inequality. This highlights the priority of the political system and the model (paradigm to follow). In this regards, the main challenge is transparency and governance, as well as the development paradigm to follow. By development paradigm we understand the model that includes the main five pillars of development: Political, Economic, Social, Environmental and cultural.

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 necessitates taking into consideration systemic issues preventing developing countries from their resources and capacities. This includes the global trading system, at the level of both multilateral and bilateral agreements. Investments should take into consideration development priorities and sustainability. They have to avoid flexibility in the labor market and any form of tax avoidance and evasion. Market access should not harm the local productive capacities both in agriculture and NAMA, new and clean technology and knowledge should be shared besides many other important elements. Debt relief is an important step to release resources in favor of development.

How should the EU strengthen its partnerships with civil society, foundations, the business community, parliaments and local authorities and academia to support the



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

implementation of the 2030 Agenda (including the integral Addis Ababa Action Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change?

The role of different partners and the partnerships established among them is well recognized within the Agenda 2030. Indeed, CSOs should be perceived as strong partners in designing policies, decision making processes, implementation and monitoring. This should take into consideration the enabling environment for civil society to do so. However, the enabling environment depends on various principles including the non-binding access to resources and to the needed information. The independence of CSO is an important factor for the successful role. Mutual accountability is also a principle that should remain at the highest priority of any partnership.

For long the EU (even including in ENP) highlights the importance of these partnerships and brings into new initiatives (i.e. structured dialogue) to strengthen it. One key aspect towards strengthening the partnership is to base it on Partnership principles whereby each partner is identified as equal, the process is transparent and inclusive.

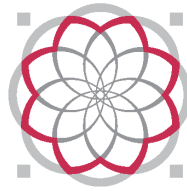
6.2 How can the EU promote private sector investment for sustainable development?

The role of private sector, and private sector investment for development should be promoted within a developmental paradigm favoring job creation, re-distributive income and growth within and among the regions and suitability. Private businesses and SMEs should prioritize the local and regional market and adopt transparency measures for effective monitoring of financial flows, transparency in investments, full respect for Human Rights and a prior and posterior impact assessments on all social, economic and environmental levels. Transparent cooperation between businesses, the public sector and the civil society for sustainable development is needed.

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 adopts in its constitution Human Rights and democratic principles as important values. It is needless to say that the EU should push all these actors to respect and fully ensure these principles as well as sustainability. Moreover, the blending mechanisms adopted by these institutions should always respect the full transparency at all levels and consider Human Rights and sustainability as binding standards.

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



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

During the course of implementation of Agenda 2030, the EU will have several occasions to support its partner countries to develop comprehensive and inclusive national plans. For instance under the ENP framework the Partnership Priorities that will set short and long-term policy reforms for the Southern Partner is one of this. EU should initially respect national ownership and country systems in adopting these development plans whereby the countries can identify their development needs and necessities. To support them in this process the EU should encourage inclusive social dialogue at national level; for instance through preventing and addressing the shrinking space for civil society. This would also necessitate engaging civil society in all policy making cycles, including designing, programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

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?

Improving coherence, complementarity and coordination between the EU and member states requires promoting the Human Rights and democratic values and highlighting inequality as a main challenge generating poverty and unemployment. Inequality should be understood as a comprehensive phenomenon and at diverse levels including geographical, social, gender, racial, religious...etc.

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

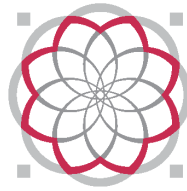
Development cooperation should take in consideration the independence of the partners and their ability to access resources and information.

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?

The EU Joint programming should encourage the adoption of comprehensive national agenda, democratically adopted and nationally owned which gives guidance to the different partners. The initiative should also allow the partners to access new and clean technologies and knowledge.

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?

Impact assessments undertaken on EU policies (i.e. trade, aid, development) would become a key tool for EU to strengthen its own use of evidence and analysis.



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

Nevertheless, it is important to note that there have been cases where these impact assessments remained as limited exercises, rather than rights-based sustainability impact assessment tools.

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? Accountability and monitoring will be key in achieving success out of the Agenda 2030. Indeed MDGs failed also because of lack of any monitoring and accountability mechanism. Accordingly, to help to ensure the accountability of all actors involved, transparency and access to information is important in addition to the respect of the mutual accountability principle among all development actors. Moreover, the EU should support an enabling environment for the different development actors. This includes a full commitment of those actors to the “Common but Differentiated Responsibility” principle as well as to the Human Rights.

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

First reviews, but voluntary, of the 2030 Agenda implementation took place under the High Level Political Forum. The review was basically based on national self-assessments and implementation of the 17 Goals. Based on this experience, it is important to provide other actors, mainly CSO, with the chance to monitor and to present reports. There is a need to evaluate the impact of key partnerships established among different actors, including between the EU and its Southern partners. The EU development cooperation ought to play a significant role in monitoring the commitments to agenda 2030. The EU should encourage its partners to reflect on the systemic aspects as well and those related to governance