



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Conclusions on an EU Development and Cooperation Results  
Framework

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At its meeting on 19 May 2014, the Council (Foreign Affairs/Development) adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

## **Council Conclusions on an EU Development and Cooperation Results Framework**

1. In its Conclusions on the Agenda for Change<sup>1</sup>, the Council called on the EU and its Member States to promote a common results-based approach, including through the use of strengthened results-based frameworks at country-level. The Council also called on the EU and its Member States to enhance their capacities to monitor and evaluate results, as a means to improve mutual accountability, peer learning and transparency, in line with the Busan aid effectiveness principles<sup>2</sup>.
  
2. In this context, the Council welcomes the Commission's Staff Working Document "Paving the way for an EU Development and Cooperation Results Framework,"<sup>3</sup> which outlines how, once finalised and implemented, this framework will strengthen the accountability, transparency and visibility of EU development and cooperation assistance, fostering a continuous dialogue with relevant stakeholders on results. The framework will serve not only as a communication tool for reporting on results, but also as a means to seek to improve management practices. The Council notes that Member States' experience and lessons learned have contributed and will continue to contribute to the framework's elaboration, which is proposed to be based on similar and validated results frameworks of other international donors.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 9369/12

<sup>2</sup> Outcome document of the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, Republic of Korea, 19 November – 1 December 2011)

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 17709/13

3. The Council stresses the need to define indicators for the results framework relevant to the priorities of the Agenda for Change and to revise them as appropriate, also in view of aligning them to the future post-2015 development framework, once the latter is agreed. Whilst acknowledging the need to keep the number of indicators manageable, the Council notes that the EU results framework should be supplemented by a qualitative analysis of results. This approach would aim at providing adequate coverage of the Union's development and cooperation assistance and at ensuring that not easily quantifiable thematic areas and long-term objectives are duly taken into account. Moreover, indicators should be sex-disaggregated, wherever possible, and appropriate indicators should be developed for cross-cutting issues.
4. Analysis of results should be context-specific, whereas reporting on results should cover the highest possible proportion of EU projects and be conducted on an annual basis, thereby facilitating the identification of areas where adjustments may be needed. In this respect, the Council underlines the importance of reporting against clearly stated objectives, well-defined indicators and their baselines. In addition, the option of setting targets for indicators should be further examined in the development of the results framework.
5. In line with the Busan aid effectiveness principles, partner countries' statistical, monitoring and evaluation systems should be used to the greatest extent possible and EU development assistance at the country-level should be aligned with partner countries' development priorities. Moreover, the Council notes the importance of continued support for the efforts of partner countries to strengthen their capacity for monitoring progress and evaluating development impact.

6. The Council highlights the need for regular reviews of the results framework and of making use of lessons learned. The Council also notes the continued importance of independent evaluations in strengthening the effectiveness and the impact of EU development assistance.
  
  7. The Council looks forward to the results of the piloting phase, with a view to the timely finalisation of the EU development and cooperation results framework, so that reporting on results achieved during 2014 can be presented in the first semester of 2015.
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