



Council of the
European Union

044405/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 26/11/18

**Brussels, 26 November 2018
(OR. en)**

14553/18

**DEVGEN 220
SUSTDEV 16
ACP 121
RELEX 991**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 26 November 2018
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 14092/18

Subject: Revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results
Framework
- Council conclusions (26 November 2018)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework, as adopted by the Council at its 3654th meeting held on 26 November 2018.

Council conclusions on the revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework

1. The Council recalls its 2015¹ Conclusions on the Commission Staff Working Document “Launching the EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework”, a tool to strengthen the accountability, transparency and visibility of EU international cooperation and development.
2. The Council welcomes the Commission Staff Working Document “A Revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework”, aligning the EU Results Framework with the new European Consensus on Development, as well as with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, the Council recalls the EU’s and Member States’ commitment to progressively adapt their reporting systems in the field of international cooperation and development to be consistent with the 2030 Agenda, thus facilitating peer learning and further progress towards a common approach for measuring results of the EU and its Member States. The Council encourages the Commission to promote a results-based approach in managing EU-funded interventions, which also requires cultural and behavioural change.
3. The Council stresses that the EU Results Framework should serve both as a communication tool for reporting on results, and as a means to improve practices in implementing the EU’s development policy, thereby enhancing development effectiveness and the visibility of EU international cooperation. In addition, the revised EU Results Framework should be used to improve transparency and mutual accountability with partner countries, thus contributing to country ownership and the promotion of inclusive development partnerships.

¹ Doc. 9145/15.

4. The Council welcomes the updated three-level structure proposed by the Commission, which is now organised around the SDGs, to measure development progress in EU partner countries (Level 1), EU contributions to development progress in EU partner countries (Level 2) and policy priority mainstreaming (Level 3).
5. The Council welcomes the incorporation of results statements to articulate EU international cooperation and development objectives and acknowledges the efforts made to align the indicators of the EU Results Framework with the SDG indicators agreed upon within the UN. Moreover, the Council welcomes that the revised EU Results Framework complements existing monitoring and reporting frameworks at country level.
6. The Council acknowledges the achievements to date, both in terms of improved accountability and potential learning from the four rounds of results reporting completed so far. The Council welcomes efforts to maximise the value and use of the existing results data, for example by using them for strategic evaluations, as highlighted in the 2015 Council Conclusions, and for reporting to the High Level Political Forum.
7. In line with the EU's Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, the Council stresses the importance of gender in the EU Results Framework and therefore calls on the Commission to continue reporting results disaggregated by sex, and to step up efforts regarding disaggregation by other relevant groups such as age, disability or other factors of vulnerability, as well as to assess the possible inclusion of more meaningful gender-sensitive indicators throughout EU funded interventions. Furthermore, the Council calls on the Commission to strengthen the focus on SDG5, given its cross-cutting nature, within the revised EU Results Framework.
8. The Council welcomes the Commission's intention to include results from ongoing programmes in addition to those from completed programmes in the next EU results reporting. This will enhance the reporting and be an important step to inform decision-making and improve learning.

9. The Council emphasises that the SDGs provide a unique opportunity for enhanced coordination and harmonised results reporting, including the use of partner country level results frameworks. The efforts of partner countries to integrate the SDGs in their national development plans, strategies, budgets and results frameworks should be encouraged and supported. This will enhance the opportunities for effective cooperation and partnerships with the EU, in particular through policy dialogues based on the SDGs. In this context, the Council underlines the need to strengthen EU efforts to support boosting the statistical capacity of developing countries, also with a view to effectively tracking progress towards the realisation of the SDGs.
10. The Council welcomes the revised EU Results Framework as a tool to facilitate joint follow-up and reporting by EU and Member States. In addition, the Council encourages the Commission services, the EEAS and Member States to further promote the use of joint results frameworks to facilitate joint programming, joint implementation and policy dialogues between the EU, Member States and stakeholders in partner countries.
11. The Council stresses the importance of using the revised EU Results Framework as the basis for monitoring and reporting on interventions to be financed under the next MFF (2021-2027), ensuring high quality data is available to demonstrate the contribution of EU external action to the implementation of the SDGs.
12. The Council calls on the Commission to include a qualitative analysis of results in future EU results reporting. Taking into account the lessons learnt from the implementation of the revised EU Results Framework, the Council calls on the Commission to update it at regular intervals, when necessary, including its indicators, in order to maintain the relevance, the quality and robustness of the methodology as well as the readability of the EU Results Framework.

13. The Council is looking forward to the implementation of the revised EU Results Framework and in this context to the publication of future annual reports of the Commission on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions. The Council urges the Commission to ensure a timely reporting, which means that annual results publication should be aimed at the latest one year after the results data collection.
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