

Official Development Assistance Policy
and a Framework for Humanitarian Assistance

Implementation Plan

Malta

2018

I Introduction

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was adopted by the international community in September 2015. It includes at its core 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see Annex I for full list) and 169 associated targets, which run to 2030. The SDGs build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. By virtue of this Agenda, the international community set itself an ambitious new framework through which countries are expected to take ownership for the achievement of the SDGs, while working together on shared challenges. In response to the global trends and challenges identified in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2017 the EU and its Member States jointly agreed to the adoption of the **European Consensus on Development**. The Consensus sets out the main principles which will guide the approach of the EU and the Member States to cooperate with developing countries, as well as a strategy for reaching the SDGs. In line with the global strategy on the EU's foreign and security policy, the consensus will also help achieve the priorities of the EU's external policy. The overarching goal is the eradication of poverty, by promoting good governance, human and economic development and tackling universal issues, such as fighting hunger and preserving the world's natural resources.

The Consensus is intended to respond to the current global challenges which have a **demographic, economic, social and environmental impact**. Strengthening the resilience of states, societies and individuals is central to this approach. It seeks to bring about sustainable development and to accelerate transformation by placing an emphasis on cross-cutting elements of development policy such as gender equality, youth, investment and trade, sustainable energy and climate action, good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights, and migration and mobility. **Better-tailored partnerships** are to be sought with a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, and partner countries at all stages of development. They will further improve their implementation on the ground by working better together and taking into account their respective comparative advantages. In order to achieve more effective results and make a greater impact, the Consensus proposes a **tailored and differentiated approach** when working with partners to promote **joint programming and implementation**, with the **full involvement of civil society and other actors**. It provides the basis for the EU and its Member States to engage in more innovative forms of development financing, leveraging **private sector investments** and mobilising additional domestic resources for development. In so doing, the Consensus likewise seeks to actively support the further implementation of the ambitious Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP) adopted at the November 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration.

In acknowledgement of the contribution the private sector can make towards sustainable development, the Ministry will seek to promote the opportunities available through the **European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)**, the centrepiece of the European Union's External Investment Plan (EIP). The EFSD aims to boost private and public investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood in order to address some of the obstacles to growth and the root causes of irregular migration. The EFSD is implemented by the European Commission.

This document is Malta's **Implementation Plan** in response to the adoption of the European Consensus on Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and sets the lines for Malta's Official Development Policy (ODA) through to 2030. It has been formulated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion in close consultation and partnership with relevant partners and stakeholders. Malta's ODA Policy will continue to be implemented in conjunction with and in close collaboration and consultation with local Non-Governmental Development Organisations, who are essential partners in operationalizing these policies.

II Implementation Plan

The Government of Malta's Implementation Plan of the 2017 European Consensus on Development within the framework of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is based on three main strands, as follows:

1. Co-funding of Official Development Assistance projects

The Government of Malta shall continue to co-fund, on an annual basis, projects submitted by local Non-Governmental Development Organisations (NGDOs) aimed at providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) in countries and sectors eligible to receive such ODA funding.

The approval of projects and the provision of such funds shall be governed by clear rules and terms of reference as stipulated and issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion. In so doing, the Ministry shall prioritise projects to be undertaken in specific geographical areas and sectors of interest/activity. These will be outlined in guidelines to be published by the Ministry in order to maximise the effectiveness of the funds provided and their demographic, economic, social and environmental impact on the ground.

Further to consultations undertaken with local NGDOs and other relevant stakeholders, and building on Malta's Official Development Assistance Policy issued in 2014, Malta will continue to give priority to projects implemented in North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, as a means of promoting stability and prosperity in Malta's immediate neighbourhood and beyond. In this regard, the Ministry will give preference to projects to be implemented in countries where Malta has representation on the ground / diplomatic representation, as a means of further maximising the effectiveness of the projects by virtue of the already-existing channels for bilateral relations.

As a means of increasing the impact of its ODA, the Ministry will give preference to larger, high-impact, multi-annual projects amongst local NGDOs, over smaller projects. To this end, the Ministry encourages joint programming and partnership among local NGDOs to synergise and align their efforts in designing and eventually implementing such projects. Synergies between NGDOs and the private sector in the implementation of projects could also be considered.

2. Capacity-Building and scholarships

Fully cognisant of the prominent role of education towards sustainable development, the Government of Malta has for a number of years provided funds for scholarships to enhance the continued educational and professional development of eligible candidates and their communities, institutions and societies. While Malta remains committed to continue providing such scholarships, the Ministry will be investing in the creation of an Arvid Pardo Fund that will promote the positive impact of capacity-building towards international development. Through the Fund, the Ministry will strengthen Malta's role in the granting of scholarships while also offering capacity-building opportunities to assist ODA eligible states in attaining the goals set out in Agenda 2030.

In this regard, in commemoration of the work of Dr. Arvid Pardo, special attention will be given to scholarships and capacity-building in the areas of climate change and blue growth, with a focus on the sustainable use and development of oceans, seas and marine resources. The Fund will also cover other key areas where Malta believes it has a comparative advantage, such as gender studies, diplomacy courses and foreign direct investment, amongst others. Given Malta's experience as a small island state, preference will be given to small states. The fund will operate under the umbrella of Malta's ODA Fund.

3. Humanitarian aid funding / contributions to trust funds / funding of UN-led initiatives aimed at alleviating humanitarian emergencies / Framework for Humanitarian Assistance

In recognition of the direct link between humanitarian assistance and development, of the mutual benefit of working in tandem rather than in silos, and of the continuum between emergency relief, rehabilitation and development, Malta shall continue to contribute, financially and/or in-kind, to assist the nationals of other countries affected by natural or man-made disasters through humanitarian or development assistance. Such funding / contributions shall be made primarily via Trust Funds, international humanitarian organisations and UN-led initiatives. If and where applicable, cooperation with local NGOs and relevant stakeholders shall likewise be promoted.

Annex I **The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 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
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development