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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.3.2025)

Promoting the Agenda 2030 and helping EU partner countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ have been and will remain at the core of the EU's international partnerships based on values, and mainstreamed across EU external actions.

Team Europe is the world's largest development partner, with the EU and its Member States collectively providing EUR 95.5 billion in 2023, accounting for 41% of global official development assistance (ODA) and contributing over 30% of global humanitarian funding. Furthermore, the EU demonstrated its efforts to fulfil and scale up its ODA commitments in the negotiation and adoption of an ambitious Pact for the Future² in New York in September 2024.

Decisions on national development budgets do not affect EU ODA, which comes from the Member States' contributions to the general budget of the EU and is disbursed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument³. However, while ODA has a key role in financing sustainable development, achieving the SDGs will require the mobilisation of public and private resources, taking into account the dimensions of debt, vulnerabilities, inequalities, sustainability, investment and partnerships.

The EU is therefore actively working with its partners to help bridge this development financing gap, notably through the Global Gateway Strategy⁴, encouraging the scaling up of public sustainable finance within broader development processes, including non-ODA policies, to address the challenges of aid fragmentation.

¹ <https://www.undp.org/european-union/sustainable-development-goals>

² https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe,
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj/eng>

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en