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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2012/2063(INI)

19.6.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Development

on the EU 2011 report on policy coherence for development
(2012/2063(INI))

Rapporteur: Andrea Češková

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. States that maternal death rates are disproportionately high in developing countries; notes with concern that African women are 175 times more likely to die in childbirth than women in the developed regions of the world¹; stresses that accessible, affordable, adequate and high-quality emergency obstetric care is vital in order to reduce maternal death rates; emphasises that developing countries need increased numbers of qualified healthcare professionals to attend to women in labour and states the need for women to be informed about the sexual and reproductive health services they can access;
2. Reaffirms that girl children have equal status under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and calls on EU delegations in developing countries to work with the governments of those countries to ensure that girl children enjoy their rights without discrimination, inter alia by requiring the immediate registration of all children after birth, granting girls and boys equal entitlement to education and schooling and ending the unethical and discriminatory practices of prenatal sex selection, abortion of female fetuses, female infanticide, early forced marriage, female genital mutilation and child prostitution;
3. Expresses concern about widespread gender-based violence, especially sexual violence and femicide, in developing countries; states that upholding women's rights, including their sexual and reproductive rights, is essential in order to end gender-based violence; calls on the Commission to make the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of such violence one of the priorities for its development assistance policy;

¹ 'Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2010, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank estimates', <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/9789241503631/en/index.html>