



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Development

2013/2040(INI)

10.7.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
(2013/2040(INI))

Rapporteur: Michael Cashman

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Insists that universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHRs) is a fundamental human right and asks the Commission to ensure that development cooperation and the future global development framework adopt a human rights and gender-based approach and have a strong and explicit focus, concrete targets and measurable indicators on SRHRs, while prioritising women and young people's empowerment and gender equality;
2. Urges the Commission, in this context, to maintain in its development priorities the removal of all barriers to allow access to quality, affordable, acceptable and accessible sexual and reproductive health services (SRHSs), prenatal and maternal health care services, including voluntary family planning, access to contraception and safe abortion, and youth-friendly services, while combating gender discrimination leading to sex-selective and involuntary abortions, forced sterilisation and sexual violence, as well as ensuring the provision of SRH supplies, prenatal and maternal health care supplies, HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, without discrimination;
3. Asks the Commission to allow a specific line on SRHR under the Development Cooperation Instrument thematic lines, as well as sufficient funding for the broad SRHR agenda in all appropriate instruments;
4. Calls on the Member States to ensure the integration of the ICPD+20, Beijing+20 and Rio+20 processes within the post-2015 framework;
5. Recognises that universal access to quality health care and services, including SRHSs, prenatal and maternal health care, and education contributes to inclusive and sustainable development and to the reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality, as well as to the empowerment of women and young people and that, therefore, this is a highly cost-effective public health and development strategy;
6. Insists that SRHRs need to be rooted in existing international HR instruments and key political consensus documents; regrets that the EU position formulated in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which recognised SRHRs as a cross-cutting issue key to other aspects of development, was not reflected in the final UN document, due to the absence of a unified EU voice;
7. Urges the EU to ensure that population dynamics and inclusive and sustainable development linkages, and SRHRs are a priority in shaping the post-2015 global development framework, where all individuals can realise their human rights, including SRHRs, regardless of their social status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief; insists that the EU must speak with a unified, coherent and leading voice on the issue;
8. Insists that enabling the fundamental freedom of women, girls and couples to take

decisions about their sexual and reproductive life, including whether and when to bear children, creates opportunities to pursue activities such as education and employment, which contributes to gender equality, poverty reduction, and inclusive and sustainable development; notes that being able to choose to have fewer children, with more time between births, potentially enables families to invest more in each child's education and health;

9. Calls on the EU and its Member States to keep their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences;
10. Asks the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS), and in particular EU delegations on the ground, to be fully aware of SRHRs as well as prenatal and maternal health care as important factors for inclusive and sustainable development, in the context of human development, governance, gender equality and human rights, economic empowerment of young people and women at country-level, as well as important factors for the current EU programming process for the period 2014-2020;
11. Calls on EU delegations to work with relevant governments to elaborate and implement policies that focus on fostering the value of women and girls in society, in order to fight gender inequality, the discrimination of women and girls, and the social norms that govern son-preference which constitute the root causes of prenatal sex-selection, female infanticide and the abortion of female foetuses, as well as early forced marriage and female genital mutilation; emphasises that efforts to limit sex-selection must not hamper or limit the right of women to have access to legitimate sexual and reproductive health technologies and services;
12. Urges the organisations receiving EU funds for HIV/AIDS and/or health protection to develop a clear, concise and transparent strategy how they can integrate SRHRs and primary HIV prevention in their interventions;
13. Urges the Commission and the EEAS to support the ownership and leadership of national governments, local authorities and civil society on the provision and promotion of SRHRs, which are universal and must be based on shared responsibilities;
14. Calls on the EU to promote the research and development of new and improved acceptable, affordable and accessible prevention technologies, diagnostics and treatments, targeting SRHRs and poverty -related and neglected tropical diseases (PRNDs) which heavily impair SRHRs in low- and middle-income families, and which taken together are among the leading causes of maternal and child mortality;
15. Asks Parliament to address SRHRs violations in Parliament's annual report on 'human rights and democracy in the world and the European Union's policy on the matter';
16. Recalls that women worldwide who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and counselling; recalls that quality and comprehensive health care services and assistance should also be offered.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.7.2013
Result of final vote	+ : 18 - : 6 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Mikael Gustafsson, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Bill Newton Dunn, Maurice Ponga, Jean Roatta, Michèle Striffler, Keith Taylor, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emer Costello, Santiago Fisas Aixela, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Edvard Kožušník, Isabella Lövin, Cristian Dan Preda
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Jan Kozłowski