
The implementation of the EU Gender action plan 2016-2020

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HELLO!

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*"There cannot be security
without inclusion and there
cannot be peace without
gender equality"*

Pillar III

Political and Civil rights: strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation

The African continent (especially Sub-Saharan and Great Lakes regions)

Presentation

1

Objectives of the Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020

2

Projects and challenges

3

Lessons learned and Recommendations

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Objectives
of the thematic goal

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17. Equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels
 18. Women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law
 19. Challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes
 20. Equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues
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"It is my firm conviction that our new approach will not bring only words but concrete actions and results. It will be translated into real improvements in the livelihoods of women and girls in third countries – where progress needs to be accelerated if we are to transform our world and unlock a development that is really sustainable.

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Neven Mimica, *EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development*

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Projects and challenges

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Country cases

- **Nigeria:** Promoting Women's engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria (2014-2017 funded by the EU with EUR 9 600 000 and implemented by UNWOMEN)
- **Ethiopia:** in order to support the country in addressing the big challenges regarding women's rights and gender equality that the country faces, the EU has adopted a three pronged approach, which includes the support of Civil society organisations' interventions in the areas of women leadership



Photo Credit: UNWOMEN

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**Lessons learned
and recommendations**

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Lessons learned

1. The GAP II is well structured around 3 main thematic pillars
2. The inclusion of the crosscutting goal 'Institutional shift in the EU External Relations' is important for changing the **way of working and starting a real process of gender mainstreaming into all EU external actions**



“PEOPLE MAY
DOUBT
WHAT YOU SAY,
BUT THEY WILL
believe
WHAT YOU DO”

~LEWIS CASS

Recommendations: Personnel and working methodology

- Invest more in Human resources within the DEVCO. The Directorate should not only have more Gender advisors within the B1 Unit, but should also train the staff within the geographical units on gender equality issues, and more specifically on the Women, Peace and Security agenda;
- Increase **systematic gender analysis** for all external actions, making use of sex and age disaggregated data;
- Improve **systematic reporting** by all EU actors on gender issues, including on the support given to shift negative social or cultural norms perpetrated by the media and by men and boys;

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- Make sure that every EU Delegation deploys a Gender advisor, including a Women, Peace and security advisor in conflict and fragile countries;
 - Strongly recommend that Member States include Gender issues within pre-deployment trainings for all personnel for the EU civilian missions;
 - Support the organisation of specific Women, Peace and Security training both at National and EU level.

Funding

- The gender equality principles embedded in the GAP II are Universal, however every country requires a tailor-made approach



Different options – equally important

- *Ad hoc* projects targeting women and girls;
 - Mainstream gender issues within all development projects;
 - Fund the development of specific projects involving men and boys for challenging the gender stereotypes and breaking the cycle of gender inequality and discrimination;
 - Fund projects on media monitoring, especially on media's conflict reporting;
 - Make use of the Gender markers in every budget evaluation.
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Recommendations for the EP/ 1

- Encourage the adoption of a new resolution on Women, Peace and Security with a focus on Women's situation and rights in the African continent (especially Sub-Saharan and Great Lakes' regions);
- Task a new report on the analysis of UNSCR 1325 implementation in EU external relations policies in the African continent;
- Support more research on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions within the African continent (adoption of 1325 national action plans, implementation of the WPS within the Security Sector, cooperation between Governments and CSOs);
- Ensure that projects funds always present gender markers;
- Work in collaboration with the EU informal Task Force on 1325 in Brussels;

Recommendations for the EP / 2

- The DEVE committee should work with gender experts and NGO focusing on women's participation in the African continent to organise seminars and exchanges of views and good practices with MEPs and Commission officials on the situation of women living in fragile and conflict countries;
 - Encourage a meaningful female participation during the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and in this context lobby for the inclusion of 1325 in the mandate of African Diplomatic missions abroad
 - Send gender balanced delegations to electoral missions and include gender sensitive analysis in their report, with a particular focus on women's active and passive participation in the elections.
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Main references

- Gender Action Plan 2016-2010, Council Conclusions (26 October 2015) 13201/15
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- Guidance note on the EU Gender Action Plan 2016 – 2020 For DEVCO HQ and EUD operational staff
- Evaluation of the EU support to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Partner Countries, Executive Summary https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/evaluation-cooperation-ec-gender-1338-summary_en.pdf
- The New European Consensus on Development «Our world, our dignity, our future»
- Joint Strategic Evaluation on Budget Support to Burkina Faso 2009-2014 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/joined-strategic-evaluation-budget-support-burkina-faso-2009-2014_en
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- [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2010/410205/EXPO-DROI_ET\(2010\)410205_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2010/410205/EXPO-DROI_ET(2010)410205_EN.pdf)
- Annual implementation report 2016: EU Gender Action Plan II "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020", <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-gender/documents/2016-annual-implementation-report-gap-ii>

THANK YOU
