

# Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming in the work of the Committee on Development (DEVE)

Gender equality is firmly embedded in the EU's founding values (Art.2-3 TEU). Promotion of gender equality is also listed as a cross-cutting task that the EU must take into account in all its activities (Art.8 TFEU).

Incorporating a gender perspective in all policies, at all levels and all stages - *gender mainstreaming* - aims at ensuring that EU policies do not maintain or reinforce existing inequalities but reduce them.

EU has committed itself to promoting gender equality throughout its external policies. To this end the Commission and the EEAS have adopted a Gender Action Plan II - "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020" for achieving gender equality through the EU external relations which has subsequently been endorsed by Council Conclusions<sup>1</sup> and the European Parliament has adopted a resolution on it<sup>2</sup>.

In the global framework Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is a goal on its own (SDG5) but it is also mainstreamed throughout the agenda as specific targets under each of the 17 goals.

The importance of gender mainstreaming is currently well recognised in the work of the DEVE committee. The purpose of this action plan is to codify the good practices as well as ensure a coherent and continued attention to the issue of gender mainstreaming in the committee's work.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 13 March 2003 on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament and a resolution on March 2011 on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament. The gender mainstreaming network has made recommendations on the work of the committees.

## Gender Mainstreaming in the work of DEVE Committee - practices and key principles

### **With regards to policy work:**

- in preparing reports and opinions, due attention is given to studies and analyses on gender equality and women's rights carried out by the European Parliament policy departments and impact assessment units as well as other organisations outside the European Parliament; the committee requests to produce such a study when necessary
- whenever relevant, a gender perspective is integrated into draft reports and opinions or added by amendments made notably by the member responsible for gender mainstreaming in the committee
- the committee checks (in cooperation with EPRS impact assessment unit) that in the legislative process the gender aspect has been adequately analysed in Commission's ex ante

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<sup>1</sup> Council conclusions of 26 October 2015 on Gender Action Plan 2016 - 2020

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament resolution of 8 October 2015 on the renewal of the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in development (P8\_TA (2015)0350)

and ex post impact assessments; in case this is deemed lacking or insufficient, the committee calls on the Commission to redress the situation

- the committee exercises oversight on the other EU institutions in that they integrate the gender mainstreaming requirements in the planning, designing and implementation of development and development cooperation policies
- whenever relevant, the committee highlights the importance of, and calls on the relevant EU institutions to use, gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative indicators and to gather gender disaggregated data in the monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and projects;
- when exercising its scrutiny rights on the implementing and delegated acts under the DCI regulation, humanitarian aid regulation and the EU aid volunteers regulation, as well as the EDF funding, the Commission draft proposals are screened from a gender perspective and the commission is called on to act when gender targets are lacking or assessment of gender impact is insufficient;
- the committee evaluates and monitors implementation of the Gender Action Plan for 2016-2020 (GAP II) progress and pays special attention to the progress made on the "institutional culture shift" which the Commission instigated in the action plan; the committee holds a yearly exchange of views with the Commission and EEAS as decided by the coordinators on 16 March 2016 and subsequently makes recommendations according to need;
- a more effective interaction is welcomed with the bodies in charge of the implementation and promotion of gender mainstreaming in parliamentary activities (FEMM, Gender Mainstreaming Network, Institute for Gender Equality<sup>i3</sup>);
- the committee proactively organises exchanges of views with experts on gender issues; the committee supports organising of events on gender-related issues;
- the committee proactively organises joint meetings with other committees on gender-related issues;
- whenever relevant, meetings with women's organisations (CSOs, business organisations, trade organisations, workers' organisations etc) are included in the programmes of the committee's delegations;

**With regards to the practices of the work of members and staff:**

- gender-neutral language (EP Guidelines "Gender neutral language in the European Parliament) is used in all documents related to the work of the committee; attention is paid specially in the committee's reports and opinions as well as studies commissioned by the committee;
- gender balance of paid experts and invited speakers is taken into account when organising hearings and workshops; a gender balanced representation of speakers is ensured;

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<sup>3</sup> The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, and the fight against discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.

- information/written material on gender issues and best practices in gender mainstreaming are circulated in the committee;
- when using statistics and tables, gender disaggregated data is included;
- a more effective interaction is welcomed with the High Level Group for Gender Equality and Diversity in charge of implementation of gender equality work in parliamentary structures<sup>4</sup>;

#### **Monitoring and evaluation of the gender action plan in DEVE committee**

- implementation of this action plan is followed regularly by the member responsible for gender mainstreaming assisted by the secretariat
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<sup>4</sup> The High-Level Group (HLG) was established by the Bureau in 2004 primarily to promote and implement gender mainstreaming within Parliament's activities, structures, and bodies. In 2007 the promotion of diversity in general was encompassed within the HLG's remit of the group who was consequently renamed. Part of the HLG's current remit is to implement the 2014-2019 Action Plan for the promotion of gender equality and diversity in Parliament.