

CONCORD's Position Paper on GAP IV

Summary

We as CONCORD commend the European Union's commitment to gender equality in its external action, especially through the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III). GAP III has an enormous potential to achieve gender equality when backed by high-level leadership and done in collaboration with local women's rights organisations and feminist movements. Building on this solid basis, GAP IV should focus even more on implementation, deepen partnerships with women's rights organisations (WROs), and explicitly embrace feminist principles.

WE ASK THAT GAP IV:

1 Continues to be based on the principles of an intersectional, gender-transformative and human rights-based approach, while being more explicitly a tool to pursue systemic change, correct power imbalances and counter colonial continuities.

2 Ensures coherence across all EU external policies. Gender equality should be systematically integrated across all EU external policies – including trade, security, and taxation. At the same time, the thematic priorities of GAP III, such as gender-based violence, SRHR, and gender equality in the digital and green transition, should be retained.

3 Strengthens engagement with local women's rights organisations. Meaningful partnerships with WROs must be at the heart of GAP IV. For this purpose, we ask that diverse civil society actors be consulted throughout all stages of the GAP IV implementation and monitoring cycle. Additionally, EU Delegations should proactively and meaningfully engage with representatives of marginalised communities to better shape the policies that affect them.

4 Matches funding to commitments. To ensure effective GAP IV implementation, funding to gender equality should be prioritised and include clear, measurable funding targets. 85% of all EU ODA should therefore be dedicated to programmes that have gender equality as one of their objectives (OECD marker G1 or G2) with 20% of ODA dedicated to gender-targeted projects (OECD marker G2), and 5% target of ODA dedicated specifically to supporting local women's rights organisations.



5 Recommits to the EU's leading-by-example approach by increasing internal capacity and relevant training for all on gender equality and mainstreaming. This requires involvement and commitment to GAP IV from senior leadership and efforts to increase the representation of women in these senior roles. The EU should invest in their in-house expertise through regular training of all EU Delegations staff and adequately resourcing and empowering the Delegations' Gender Focal Points.

6 Invests more in data collection and monitoring. Building on existing good practices, GAP IV should increase investments in collecting disaggregated data and in supporting partner countries in doing so. To ensure fewer discrepancies across reporting, we ask for EU Delegations and HQ staff to be provided guidance on properly using and reporting on GAP indicators and OECD Gender markers.



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