

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT



The Director-General

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Secretary General

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025
Delegation of the EU to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva
Implementation plan

1. Context for EU action gender equality and women's empowerment in the country

Specific multilateral context of the work of the EU Delegation to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva offers wide opportunities for implementation of the objectives of the Gender Action Plan III. While promoting EU actions, policies and interests in all UN bodies, we pay special attention to gender mainstreaming throughout our work. The EU Delegation represents the EU and its active participation in the UN and its related bodies or specialised agencies, in particular the Human Rights Council (HRC), OHCHR, OCHA, UNHCR, UNCTAD, WHO, ICRC, ILO, WIPO, UNECE, IOM, ITU, WMO, as well as in disarmament and non-proliferation related matters/agendas. We foster EU co-ordination and common EU positions in these fora and promote co-operation with Member States in the UN framework. We also enhance visibility and understanding of the EU role and policies, including on gender, in all areas related to the UN.

The two-folded role of the EU Delegation comprises **internal EU coordination and external engagement in multilateral context**. The internal EU coordination is key to ensure the EU unity and maintaining the gender related EU agreed language (despite the well known challenges on SRHR, gender equality, LGBTI etc.) in order to keep the gender bar high and to secure that our policies and priorities are properly mirrored in all our outputs (such as numerous EU statements and interventions) and common EU positions for negotiations of various resolutions and declarations in the UN multilateral foras. External engagement in multilateral fora consists of negotiating and promoting our gender related priorities and positions, which includes engagement on different documents and participation in various UN projects, gender related panels and interactive dialogues, side events, campaigns, social media or communication projects. This requires not just well coordinated, strong and united EU positions but also well crafted outreach strategies through building alliances with traditional but also non-traditional partners to succeed in challenging and often hostile geo-political UN environment. We also pay special attention to cooperation with all different stakeholders such as civil society, NGOs, representatives of marginalized groups or academia.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The objective of the EU action for gender equality and women's empowerment in Geneva multilateral context is to engage on the six **selected thematic areas of the GAP III** through negotiations, participation in projects, panels, discussions and outreach on the GAP III priorities with various stakeholders.

Thematic areas of engagement:

- 1) **Challenge gender norms and power inequalities.**
 - Continued active implementation of the priorities on women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights and gender equality as set by the 2021 Strategic Work Plan for EU Action in UN Human Rights Fora.
 - Mainstreaming EU agreed language on elimination of gender stereotypes and inequalities through all our outputs and negotiations in Geneva UN multilateral fora and to push for these elements to be reflected in relevant UN outcome documents, resolutions and declarations.
 - Invest in bridge building projects on gender with non-traditional partners (such as recent HRC Joint statement with NAM on Women with disabilities or EU support to Egyptian joint statement on FGM).
 - Conduct systematic outreach to African, Grulac and Asian countries to boost our negotiation leverage on gender files within Geneva international organisations.
 - Actively engage and cooperate with gender and women NGOs, including through side events and public diplomacy projects.
 - The EU is supporting WHO efforts in improving the health conditions of women and young girls. During the 74th WHA in May, we co-sponsored the resolution WHA74.17 on "Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches", showing our commitment to protect women, young girls, and children from every form of violence.
 - The EU Delegation's events strive to maintain a 50% gender balance in the speakers panels.
- 2) **Gender based violence, including targeting the LGBTI community.**
 - Mainstream agreed language on gender based violence (including LGBTI) in all relevant EU Delegation's outputs (statements, interventions) and in negotiations on different initiatives within the Geneva international organisations (HRC, humanitarian, WHO, ILO etc.), with a special focus on the context of the COVID 19 pandemic and beyond.
 - Continued engagement in public diplomacy and communication campaigns (Spotlight initiative, #OrangeTheWorld: 16 days of activism against gender-based violence etc.).
- 3) **Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.**
 - Strive to maintain EU unity and to adhere to EU agreed language in our relevant statements and interventions and to actively and effectively push for **common EU positions** on sexual and reproductive health to be reflected in negotiations on different resolutions, declarations and outcome documents within the UN fora.
- 4) Empowerment of women, especially in terms of **economic and political participation and leadership.**

- Promote women's economic and political participation and leadership in the EU statements and interventions and in UN outcome documents.
 - Continue in public diplomacy activities on strengthened participation of women and girls.
 - Support side events and projects on protection of women human rights defenders.
- 5) Furthering the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**.
- Continue EU Delegation's longstanding active role (including via organising high level events) on promoting the participation of women in the peace processes, for instance bringing the voices of Syrian, Yemen, and Libyan women at the forefront.
- 6) Addressing the gender gap in the green and digital transitions (so that they can be just transitions).
- Advocating for women's access to information and technology to increase their benefits from growing digital economy.
 - Continue promoting digital and green agenda through public diplomacy and communication events (such as EU Code Week-Programming, Robotics and Rights for Girls in the past).
 - Continue ensuring that UNECE, WMO, and Geneva-based Multilateral Environmental Agreements, inter alia recognise the importance of gender mainstreaming in environmental activities, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs; and to emphasise that gender equality is not only a goal in itself but also a means to achieve sustainable development.

3. Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

- **HRC:** Continue to keep EU unity on all numerous gender related EU statements and interventions at the HRC. Push for mainstreaming of the ambitious gender related language in negotiations on the gender related HRC resolutions on Violence against women, Discrimination against women, Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, Girls education, Female genital mutilation, Menstrual hygiene and SOGI. Active engagement in interactive dialogues with gender related UN Special procedures mandate holders and in panel discussions on women like Annual Women's Day as well as organising or co-sponsoring side events and projects with civil society. Active cooperation with the relevant UN Special Rapporteurs (VaW, DaW etc.) and UN Treaty Bodies (CEDAW etc.) by facilitating timely input on EU policies and relevant activities in the respective areas.
- **Humanitarian:** Continue in organising series of high level events on promoting the participation of women in the peace processes with Syrian, Yemen, and Libyan women. Continued active participation and support to EU-initiated Gaziantep Women Platform, the EU initiative linking grassroots activists from Syria with Track I actors and the Office of the Special Envoy.
- The broader topic of gender based violence featured prominently during both the Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week (HNPW) in April/May 2021 as well as in the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment in June 2021 – featuring extensive EU engagement. As humanitarian protection needs are rising in light of

the pandemic, focus on gender based violence is likely to be maintained in the foreseeable future while we will keep our active stance.

- We will actively participate in the follow up process on the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (IAHE GEEWG) that captures best practices and provides recommendations on mainstreaming the concept into humanitarian action. (Based on the IAHE GEEWG a review of the progress was released in May 2021 and it also led to a management response plan being published in June 2021 and followed up by us and partners in informal meetings).
- **UNCTAD:** We will continue our systematic push for gender to be mainstreamed in the considerations of UNCTAD's work, in addition to actual projects financed by EC (e.g. by DG Trade on trade and gender data) or by Member States (programme on boosting women entrepreneurs). We ensure that these issues are highly reflected in any agreed conclusion from key meetings, and most importantly in the quadrennial Conference outcome. **WHO:** We highlight that ongoing WHO transformation should take into account gender issues, preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in working environments and especially among WHO staff and on the ground in outbreak areas during health emergencies.
- The pandemic deeply affected the most vulnerable, including women. To prevent the next pandemic from deepening the already existing gender-based inequalities, we asked the WHO Director-General to develop strategies and tools for managing the impact of health emergencies on those categories. We will continue to support gender balance in leadership positions and strongly supported European female leadership in the election of MEP Chrysoula Zacharopoulou as co-chair for HICs in the COVAX Facility Shareholder Council.
- **UNECE:** We continue pushing for gender mainstreaming across all programmes of UNECE, namely based on the 2019 Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in the organisation, contracted by the Executive Secretary.
- **ITU:** A number of activities across ITU is specifically designed for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. Notably, ITU-D has been promoting women in STEM through mentorship programmes and through creation of Network of Women for different regions, as well as through their digital development projects. We are taking the lead in extending the Network of Women for Europe to the diplomatic community in Geneva. We also promote increasing number of women speakers across the organisation, which for example for its WSIS Forum has set a target of at least 50% women for all panels. We also organise regular events to promote stem careers among women, such as our "girls can code" initiative.
- **ILO:** We are actively engaging in support of ILO's goal to promote equal opportunities for women and men via the Decent Work Agenda. The agenda focuses on fairly paid productive work carried out in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity.
- **Disarmament and non-proliferation:** We ensure that gender mainstreaming is highly reflected into all non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control work, including our own statement delivered in disarmament fora. We actively support Action 36 and 37 of United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, which focus respectively on the "Full and Equal Participation of Women in Decision-Making Processes" and "Gender Parity on Disarmament Bodies established by the Secretariat".

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women's empowerment

The Head of Delegation is holding targeted dialogues with **Heads of respective UN Agencies** to promote EU gender priorities (as set by the GAP III) as well as to find common ground (for instance on the UNSG's Gender Parity Strategy) for cooperation on various UN related gender projects. The **Head of Delegation will join the International Gender Champions initiative and present two personal pledges: to continue her longstanding involvement in internal mentoring and empowerment of female staff;** to actively promote priorities set up by the GAP III.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

The EU Delegation is very active in various public diplomacy projects and campaigns. We participate in the Spotlight initiative, and we have been conducting various concrete campaigns on violence against women and on women's and girls' empowerment (Her voice-Her vote: Aspects of Libyan women's participation in elections; Winning back a "Lost Generation" – children's rights and education in Syria; Driving the Change – Young Women Activists for #EqualFuture; Syrian Road to Justice: The needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Syria; #OrangeTheWorld: 16 days of activism against gender-based violence; Celebrating diversity – the EU stands up for LGBTI rights etc.). We will continue in this series of **concrete campaigns and to co -sponsor various gender related side events at the HRC.**

We regularly receive groups of high school and university students and youth delegates with whom we raise our gender related priorities.

6. Technical Facility and financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

EU Delegation in Geneva does not receive any financial resources allocated to support GAP III.

Date: 29/7/2021

Signature by the Head of Delegation:

