

**Annual Structured Dialogue with civil society and local authorities  
On the Implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III**

**28 November 2023  
13:30h - 16h CET, ONLINE**

**DRAFT Concept Note and Agenda**

### **Background**

The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III aims to accelerate progress towards gender equality worldwide. It commits the EU to enhance the inclusion of and foster strategic engagement with civil society partners and women's rights organisations throughout its implementation, notably at the local level.

In this context, in 2021, the Directorate General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) have set-up a structured dialogue with an annual event hosted by the Policy Forum on Development (PFD), which shall be broad and inclusive in its participation by a diverse range of civil society/non-governmental/women's rights organisations and local authorities.

The objectives of the 2023 annual dialogue event are to:

- Take stock of the progress achieved at mid-term of GAP III implementation, in particular regarding engagement with civil society and local authority organisations in partner countries. The discussion will be based on: the results of the independent mid-term evaluation; the Joint Mid-Term Report<sup>1</sup> by the Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President Borrell; and civil societies' and local authorities' own assessments of GAP III implementation.
- Have an in-depth discussion on the promotion by the EU and development partners of the care economy and decent care work in partner countries as a pivotal aspect for women's and girls' empowerment.
- Contribute to the formulation of recommendations for effective implementation of the GAP III

### **Methodology**

The agenda of the annual event is co-created by a **steering group** (list of members attached) on a consensual basis, aimed at inter-active participation and discussion on jointly identified aspects and challenges linked to the implementation of the GAP III.

The annual structured dialogue event will be followed by a feedback process, including Commission and EEAS' replies to the recommendations.

The members of the steering group are committed to briefing their members on the subject of the annual dialogue ahead of the meeting, including on the forthcoming **Joint mid-term report on the implementation of the GAP III**, adopted by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> This will be a separate meeting, date to be confirmed.

The dialogue event will be upon invitation based on a contact list set-up by the members of the steering group of about 400 civil society/other non-government and local authority networks representatives.

Translation into English, Spanish and French will be available.

### Draft Agenda, 13h30 – 16h00

13h30

Opening by **Jutta URPIILAINEN**, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships

13:40 - 14h30

#### *I. GAP III implementation: Results and Lesson Learned*

Assessments by civil society and local authority representatives

Plenary Discussion with the participation of **Chiara ADAMO**, Head of Unit for Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG INTPA and **Jonna NAUMANEN** (TBC), Senior Advisor to the EU Ambassador for Gender Equality and Diversity, European External Action Service

14h30 – 16h00

#### *II. Promoting the care economy (see separate concept note below)*

Introduction in plenary (20')

The role of the care economy for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment: short presentations (max. 3) on promising practices by the Commission, the Spanish EU Presidency and civil society

#### *Break-out sessions*

Discussions around guiding questions (50')

Feedback in plenary (20')

Possible recommendations, which will be further consolidated by the steering group

Closure

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## **The role of the care economy for women's and girls' empowerment**

### **Plenary and breakout groups**

#### **Draft concept note**

#### Background

Women spend a disproportionate amount of time on unpaid care and domestic work. Statistics show that, globally, women spend 3.2 times more hours on unpaid care work than men (UNESCAP, 2022). This gendered division of labour and resulting time poverty of women and girls have far reaching implications, including unequal participation in the labour market and income poverty for women.

The need to combine paid work and care and domestic tasks means that women are often overrepresented in informal, low paid work, flexible work, with no access to social security benefits. These challenges are further exacerbated in crisis or fragile situations – where public services are cut, resulting in an intensification of domestic chores in households, primarily falling on women and girls (UN Women, 2020b).

In recognition of these gendered challenges, the importance of including care-related policies and services as part of a comprehensive gender-responsive social protection system is increasingly being advocated for by international actors (WIEGO, UNICEF and ILO, 2021), following the International Labour Organization's "5R framework for decent care work": recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and reward and represent paid care work by promoting decent work for care workers and guaranteeing their representation, social dialogue and collective bargaining".

#### Methodology

Further to a presentation in plenary of the EU's, Member States' (Spain) and civil society organisations'/local authorities' work in the area of the care economy, participants will split up in breakout groups of about 30 participants to discuss promising practices of transformative care policy and the role of the EU and other development actors in promoting decent care work in partner countries.

The guiding questions, eventual position and thematic papers will be shared ahead of the event.

The discussions in each of the breakout groups will be facilitated by a member of the steering group assisted by a resource person with experience in the promotion of the care economy (EU staff, the Spanish development cooperation, CSO, LA representative).

Translation into English, Spanish and French will be available in one of the breakout groups.