



2024/2057(INI)

10.10.2024

DRAFT REPORT

on a European Parliament recommendation to the Council concerning the EU priorities for the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (2024/2057(INI))

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Rapporteur: Lina Gálvez

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION	3
ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT.....	7

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATION

to the Council concerning the EU priorities for the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (2024/2057(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 15 September 1995 and the outcomes of its review conferences,
 - having regard to the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on the Status of Women, dated 13 December 2019 and entitled 'Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly',
 - having regard to the joint communication from the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III): an ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action 2021-2025' (SWD(2020)284 final) and the Joint Staff Working Document 'Objectives and Indicators to frame the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III',
 - having regard to its resolution of 10 March 2022 on the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021/2003(INI)),
 - having regard to its resolution of 11 February 2021 on challenges ahead for women's rights in Europe: more than 25 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2021/2509(RSP)),
 - having regard to the briefing by the European Parliamentary Research Service from September 2024 entitled 'Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) - Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls',
 - having regard to the UN Women's report 'Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2024',
 - having regard to Rule 121 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A10-0000/2024),
- A. whereas equality between women and men is a fundamental principle of the EU, which must be guided by this principle in its external action;
- B. whereas women's human rights and gender equality are not only fundamental human rights, but preconditions for advancing development and reducing poverty and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world;

- C. whereas 189 governments across the world, including the European Union and its Member States, committed to working towards gender equality and empowering all women and girls at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;
- D. whereas the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) is the most comprehensive global agenda for promoting gender equality and is considered the international ‘Bill of Rights’ for women, defining women’s rights as human rights and articulating a vision of equal rights, freedom and opportunities for all women in the world, and was reaffirmed in 2015 with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by setting goals and concrete measures across a range of issues affecting women and girls;
- E. whereas just six years before the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, not a single indicator under Goal 5, gender equality, has been fully achieved; whereas the UN estimates that radical action are needed in order to accelerate progress and to avoid taking 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory legislation for women;
- F. whereas a UN study¹ on the evaluation of SDG 5 highlights that social norms still exist that legitimise violence against women and girls, reduce access to health services, assign unpaid care and domestic work to women solely and restrict leadership opportunities;
- G. whereas the UN general assembly has warned about the active resistance to advances in gender equality and the growing transnational backlash against women’s rights; whereas there is a clear urgency to reaffirm substantive equality and the human rights of women and girls²;
1. Recommends that the Council:
- (a) confirm its commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and to the range of actions for women’s human rights and gender equality outlined therein; confirm its commitment to women’s human rights, through gender mainstreaming in all policy areas and cycles, the implementation of specific and targeted actions for women’s human rights and gender equality, and ensure proper gender budgeting;
 - (b) ensure that gender equality and women’s rights are fully and proudly implemented in all aspects of EU external action through an adequately funded gender-transformative, inclusive and intersectional approach;
 - (c) ensure the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process on the EU’s position at the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to ensure that Parliament has adequate and timely information and access to the EU position document ahead of the negotiations, and to improve further interinstitutional cooperation and informal consultation, including prior to and during negotiations, so that Parliament’s priorities are properly incorporated;

¹ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/03/are-we-getting-there-a-synthesis-of-un-system-evaluations-of-sdg-5>

² <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/073/47/pdf/g2407347.pdf>

- (d) take due stock of the progress, and set-backs, encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- (e) reinvigorate the EU's efforts to overcome remaining challenges to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; ensure that the EU leads by example by putting in place robust policy measures to address, combat and anticipate gender inequality in all its manifestations, and to empower women in all their diversity;
- (f) reiterate that the EU has an important role to play in achieving a gender equal world through supporting partner countries to address gender discrimination; calls on the EU to lead by example and urges the remaining five Member States which still have not ratified and implemented the Istanbul Convention to do so in the shortest possible timeframe;
- (g) press for equal opportunities for all in all spheres of life, to allow women in all their diversity to reach their potential in life, notably also in decision making, whether political, economic, academic or cultural, this being essential also for good governance and policy making; within the context, express opposition to semiotic violence against women in politics, which sustains and reinforces negative stereotypes about women and discourages young women from entering politics and public spaces;
- (h) emphasise that weak political leadership, lack of commitment, data gaps, insufficient investment, and the rise of anti-rights movements have been identified as obstacles; thus making it necessary to promote more women in leadership, increase investments, and implement comprehensive policy reforms to overcome these systemic barriers and achieve a truly equal society;
- (i) apply gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting in all EU policy areas, including external action; and to lead by example in this regard;
- (j) commit to constant appraisal and pro-active corrective action in the EU's internal and external policies in regards to gender equality, mainstreaming and budgeting;
- (k) call on the Commission to further develop and roll-out concrete and well-financed plans and actions to address the SDGs, notably related to gender equality;
- (l) take a lead in the global fight against the backlash against gender equality and women's rights;
- (m) urge the Commission to further develop and improve the collection of gender-desegregated data, and to ensure that this data contributes to better policy making; and to reinforce the European Institute of Gender Equality both in terms of funding and capacity;
- (n) implement with delay and to the fullest extent the EU Gender Action Plan III and ensure that 85 % of all new actions throughout external relations by 2025 contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment;
- (o) take note of and implement the recommendations of Parliament's Report on the EU GAP III, and thus prioritise GAP III in every aspect of EU external action through a gender-transformative and intersectional approach, both in terms of GAP III's geographical coverage and areas of action, as well as gender

mainstreaming in all areas of external action, whether trade, development policy, humanitarian aid, security or sectors such as energy and agriculture;

- (p) devise, fund and implement policies to ameliorate the gender factor in poverty both within and, through external action, without the EU, taking due note of intersectional factors, including age, care-responsibilities, disability, race, sexuality;
- (q) address the systemic and root causes of women's poverty, and to empower women and girls in all their diversity through education, training, life-long-learning, non-discriminatory labour opportunities, access to social services, balancing unpaid care and social responsibilities through legislative initiative, combating gender stereotyping and promoting women as role-models;
- (r) calls for the further efforts, legislation and enforcement of measures to ensure the rights of women domestic workers;
- (s) enhance the EU's response, resources and toolkit, both internally and externally, regarding gender-based violence, including domestic, sexual, physical, psychological and economic violence, also in war-zones, taking account of migration, prostitution and sexual exploitation;
- (t) ensure that women in all their diversity have access to health services, including for sexual rights and reproductive health, including age-appropriate sexuality and relationship education, contraception, safe and legal abortion, maternal health and care-based health service;
- (u) calls for increased efforts to address gender issues in the context of the green transition, given the intersectional and disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, particularly in developing countries, noting that climate change is not gender neutral;
- (v) advocate for and strengthen civil society organisations supporting women's rights;

2. Instructs its President to forward this recommendation to the Council, and for information, the Commission.

ANNEX: ENTITIES OR PERSONS FROM WHOM THE RAPPORTEUR HAS RECEIVED INPUT

The rapporteur declares under her exclusive responsibility that she did not receive input from any entity or person to be mentioned in this Annex pursuant to Article 8 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.