



2026/2039(INI)

15.9.2026

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development and the Committee on Women's Rights
and Gender Equality

on EU Gender Action Plan IV – priorities for gender equality and women's
rights in external action
(2026/2039(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Hannah Neumann

PA_NonLeg

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs submits the following to the Committee on Development and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, as the committees responsible :

Amendment 1

Motion for a resolution

Recital B a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ba. whereas in recent years, a global anti-gender movement funded by illiberal, often authoritarian, actors has been gaining ground and treating gender equality, women's rights and the broader human rights framework as a proxy battleground;

Or. en

Amendment 2

Motion for a resolution

Recital C a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ca. whereas the EU action plan for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action 2028-2034 (GAP IV) has the potential to be one of the EU's flagship programmes, representative of the EU's distinctive global leadership that sets it apart from other actors around the world;

Or. en

Amendment 3

Motion for a resolution

Recital C b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Cb. whereas effective gender mainstreaming in EU external action requires sufficient institutional capacity, gender expertise and clear responsibility across all policy fields and at all levels, including senior management, EU delegations and the services responsible for political, security, economic and investment decisions;

Or. en

Amendment 4

**Motion for a resolution
Recital F a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Fa. whereas funding for civil society is shrinking worldwide, along with opportunities for its meaningful participation and consultation, in particular for organisations defending the rights of women, girls and marginalised groups; whereas women human rights defenders (WHRDs) often face additional, gender-specific challenges in carrying out their work, including threats and violence, defamation campaigns and violence online and in digital spaces;

Or. en

Amendment 5

**Motion for a resolution
Recital G a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ga. whereas since the adoption of the EU's Gender Action Plan 2020-2025 (GAP III), foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)

has become an undeniable challenge to national sovereignty, democratic resilience, human rights and the integrity of democratic processes, with women in public life and gender equality being increasingly targeted by such activities;

Or. en

Amendment 6

Motion for a resolution Recital H a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ha. whereas despite increasing military spending by EU Member States and other actors, commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has waned, with the UN referring to ‘stagnation and even regression across many of the goals of the WPS agenda’;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Motion for a resolution Recital J a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ja. whereas GAP III witnessed varying degrees of implementation, in particular across different EU delegations, as well as shortcomings with regard to accountability, including vis-à-vis civil society engagement, monitoring results and impact;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Motion for a resolution
Recital J b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Jb. whereas gender mainstreaming in EU external action is improving and gender is regularly being considered in external action design and implementation; whereas studies show that comparatively few actions have gender equality as their principal objective and significant gaps remain in areas where the EU exercises political and economic leverage;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3a. Calls on the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to use GAP IV to address the accountability gaps of GAP III, strengthen accountability to EU citizens by publicly reporting on the qualitative and quantitative results of GAP IV and track social dynamics and how they may have changed as a result of the programmes implemented under GAP IV; underscores the need for a mid-term evaluation of GAP IV and calls on the Commission and the EEAS to engage in an annual debate on GAP IV implementation with Parliament in a joint session of the Committees on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, on Development and on Foreign Affairs;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 3 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3b. Expects the Commission, the Member States and the EEAS to systematically integrate the objectives of GAP IV into all of the EU's external action, at all levels of engagement and in all relevant activities; stresses, to that end, that identifying and strengthening ties with states, regional organisations and civil society networks committed to gender equality should be an explicit and consistent strand of EU external action and a core component of the EU's strategic political engagement with all partner governments; calls for the EU's economic leverage, including through the Global Gateway, EU-backed investment, trade and private-sector engagement, to contribute to gender equality objectives and a shift in policy-making by addressing inequalities not simply by tackling the symptoms or treating women and marginalised groups as targets of policy, but also by addressing the negative impact of gender inequality on men and by challenging men's over-representation; calls for gender-responsive due diligence and procurement and for gender considerations to be integrated into reconstruction financing, particularly in conflict-affected and transition contexts;

Or. en

Amendment 11

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 4 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4a. Encourages the inclusion of civil

society organisations fighting for the rights of women, girls and marginalised groups in the programming and reporting process of GAP IV, along with regular, structural exchanges with them; calls for the sustainable funding of civil society, as one of the main actors holding the EU to account for the implementation of GAP IV; calls for a policy where new and smaller organisations can more easily receive funding, as new actors can bring innovative and novel approaches to the status quo;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 4 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4b. *Calls on the Commission, the EEAS and the EU delegations to strengthen the protection of women human rights defenders, women environmental defenders and women peacebuilders, including through rapid response mechanisms, emergency support, digital security assistance and diplomatic engagement, particularly in authoritarian, repressive and conflict-affected contexts; calls for resources, including funding, to be allocated to their security and safety in order to ensure that they can be operational; calls for investigations to be launched into private sector harassment of WHRDs;*

Or. en

Amendment 13

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7a. Urges the Commission and the EEAS to strengthen gender expertise and accountability across their internal structures and EU delegations, including by ensuring clear management responsibility and adequately mandated and resourced Gender Focal Points; stresses that responsibility for implementing GAP IV must extend beyond gender specialists to senior management and the political, security, economic, investment and contracting teams involved in EU external action;

Or. en

Amendment 14

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7b. Calls for the equitable representation of women and marginalised groups across all levels, and for gender-responsive leadership and recruitment processes; encourages the Member States to nominate more women for seconded positions in the EEAS and common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions and operations;

Or. en

Amendment 15

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 10 a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

10a. Stresses the need to tackle gendered FIMI and disinformation

increasingly targeting women's rights, gender equality and women in public and political life, as part of the EU's broader response to foreign interference and hybrid threats; calls on the EEAS and the Commission to strengthen their capacity to identify and respond to gendered disinformation, AI-generated abusive content and deepfakes, transnational digital repression and surveillance targeting women politicians, journalists and human rights defenders; calls for digital security to form an integral part of EU protection programmes for WHRDs;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 18 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

18a. Calls for stronger and more systematic integration of the WPS agenda across CSDP missions and operations, mediation, conflict prevention and the EU's security and defence architecture, linking it more explicitly to the EU's broader peace, security and defence architecture, especially at this time of increased EU investments in security and defence; stresses the need for sufficient resources to strengthen EU expertise and capacity to conduct risk and conflict analyses with an integrated gender perspective, which should involve paying specific attention to gender equality and ensuring the meaningful participation of women and marginalised groups; calls for women's full and equal inclusion and agency in decision-making across these areas and for greater gender balance at all levels of CSDP missions and operations;

Or. en

Amendment 17

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 25 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

25a. Believes that the underlying theory of GAP IV needs to recognise, reflect upon and respond to the growing geopolitical posturing by illiberal, often authoritarian, actors, that treat gender equality, women's rights and the broader human rights framework as a proxy battleground and that are investing billions of euro in funding the global anti-gender movement; calls for the EU's capacity to identify and respond to organised anti-gender and anti-rights narratives globally and within the EU to be strengthened; believes that the EU should continue to show leadership in defending full and uncompromised access to sexual and reproductive health and rights;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 25 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

25b. Expresses deep concern at the recent global backsliding also with regard to support for gender equality and for LGBTIQ+ rights; regrets the fact that the new LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030 is distinctly less ambitious than the 2020-2025 strategy;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 26 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

26a. Expresses its support for the separate and necessary mandates of UN Women and the UN Population Fund and calls for both entities to be maintained at a time when sustained, distinct advocacy on gender equality and reproductive rights is most needed;

Or. en