

TOWARDS A GENDER-EQUAL WORLD

# EU GAP III

# EU GENDER ACTION PLAN III

- The Gender Action Plan III is the EU's blueprint for building a gender equal world.
- GAP III emphasizes the importance of working together with EU member states, in close cooperation with all partners, including civil society and communities.
- The EU will lead by example by striving for a gender responsive and balanced leadership, ensuring public accountability of gender related spending and putting focus on results.
- By 2020, 85% of all new external actions will contribute to gender equality and promotion of women's empowerment (baseline 64,25% in 2019).

# 5 pillars of EU GAP III

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**1) Making EU engagement on gender equality more effective as a cross-cutting priority of EU external action in its policy and programming work.** The European Commission and the High Representative reconfirm that by 2025 85% of all new external actions will contribute to this objective. This requires further gender mainstreaming in all external policies and sectors and a gender-transformative rights-based and intersectional approach.

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**2) Promoting, together with EU Member States, strategic EU engagement at multilateral, regional and country level** and jointly stepping up implementation of GAP III in each partner country and region, in close cooperation with partner governments, civil society, the private sector and other key stakeholders. This will require greater coordination, cooperation and transparency.

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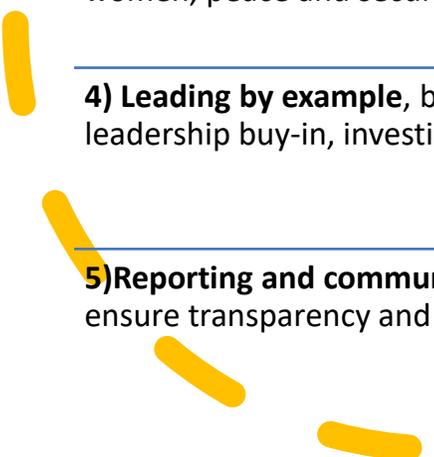
**3) Focusing on key areas of engagement:** ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence; promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights; strengthening economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women; advancing equal participation and leadership; implementing the women, peace and security agenda, addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

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**4) Leading by example,** by establishing gender-responsive<sup>11</sup> and gender-balanced leadership at top EU political and management levels. This requires leadership buy-in, investing in knowledge, resources and pooling action with EU Member States.

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**5) Reporting and communicating on results,** putting in place a quantitative, qualitative, and inclusive monitoring system to increase public accountability, ensure transparency and access to information and achieve better EU outreach on the impact of its work worldwide



# Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence

## EU action should contribute to:

- increasing protection – by supporting legislation criminalising all forms of gender-based violence and capacity building of law enforcement institutions, in line with international legal and policy frameworks;
- promoting prevention – by challenging harmful gender norms, working with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a victim-centred approach and measures that end recidivism by perpetrators, also engaging men and boys, traditional and religious leaders;
- contributing to increasing prosecution of perpetrators including those involved in human trafficking by strengthening a victim-centred approach by *the* law-enforcement bodies;
- increasing protection of survivors also by supporting access to life-saving social and justice services with a survivor-centred approach, particularly in fragile and conflict/post-conflict settings or when survivors face intersecting discriminations;
- supporting access to psycho-social support services and participation in economic and social life of victims of gender-based violence and victims of trafficking in human beings;
- safe and quality humanitarian actions that support preparedness, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and the work of the Call to Action;
- strengthening women's rights organisations and social movements as well as civil society organisations (CSOs) working on the intersectional dimension of gender-based violence and of conflict-related sexual violence.

# Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights

## **EU action should contribute to:**

- An enabling legal, political and societal environment that protects the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls and increase access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, including HIV&AIDS prevention and treatment;
- The elimination of harmful practices such as FGM, CEFM and gender-biased sex selection, by supporting country, regional and global initiatives;
- Increasing services in humanitarian settings, including obstetric care, the provision of the minimum initial service package, HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive, maternal and new-borns health, family planning, addressing specific nutrition needs and vulnerabilities.

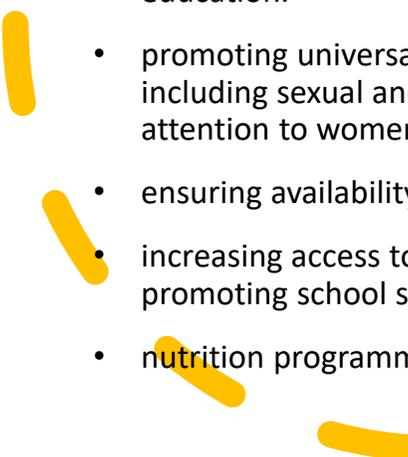
# Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women: *economic empowerment*

## EU action should contribute to:

- Promoting decent work, equal pay and labour rights, and women's transition to the formal economy, among other by reducing labour market segregation, boosting women's leadership and increasing their bargaining power in economic and household decision-making and social dialogue, in sectors with a majority of women workers, including domestic work, as well as in non-traditional sectors;
- Creating an enabling environment for women's economic activities and access to productive resources and eco-system services, including women's access to land, seas and oceans activities, remittances, technology, finance, as well as to identification and control over mobility, including access to safe and affordable transport options;
- Supporting universal social protection systems, and recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work by providing more support for gender-responsive budgeting;
- challenging gender norms within the household and the labour market, recognising men and boys' responsibilities and fostering legislative developments, such as the introduction of paid paternity leave;
- Supporting women entrepreneurship and women-led businesses, including social entrepreneurship, and their access to finance by providing innovative investments schemes through the EIP, addressing the market's failure to reach women and promoting the creation of SMEs. Additional targeted action will include business development services and support for employment, including for women in recovery contexts and in forced displacement;
- Supporting and empowering migrant women contribute to the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination through remittances, skills and knowledge;
- Promoting gender equality through trade policy, including through the EU's engagement in the World Trade Organisation and its work on Aid for Trade, and ensuring robust use of sustainability impact assessments of trade initiatives and policy reviews.



# Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women: *education and health*

- promoting gender equality in and through quality, affordable and inclusive education at all levels by maintaining funding for education in emergencies at 10% of the humanitarian aid budget and by increasing overall funding for education;
  - building stronger gender responsive education systems to promote gender equality and deliver more equitable education results for girls and boys through safe and healthy learning environments, teacher recruitment, training and professional development, curricula and learning materials, work with parents and communities;
  - increasing investment in girls' education to achieve equal access to all forms of education and training, including science, technology, engineering and maths, digital literacy and skills, and technical and vocational education and training;
  - improving access to comprehensive sexuality education for in-school and out-of-school adolescents;
  - adopting robust measures to combat gender stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and school-related gender-based violence in and through education.
  - promoting universal health coverage through sustainable and resilient health systems and equitable access to essential services and information, including sexual and reproductive health, maternal care and capacity to address communicable and non-communicable diseases, with a particular attention to women and girls with disabilities; taking into account the disruptions to access to care that were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - ensuring availability and equal access for women to diagnostics, vaccines and treatments for COVID-19;
  - increasing access to water and decent sanitation facilities and responding to inadequate menstrual hygiene management by awareness raising, promoting school sanitation programmes and by providing sanitary facilities in schools;
  - nutrition programmes, including in humanitarian settings, in particular for pregnant and lactating women and for children under five years of age.
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# Advancing equal participation and leadership

## **EU action should contribute to:**

- increasing the level of women participation, representation and leadership in politics, governance and electoral processes at all levels, via support for democracy and governance programmes and public administration reforms;
- enhancing women's capacity as political leaders in governments and parliaments through training, women's caucuses, and promoting gender-responsive legislative processes and budgeting and promoting young leaders programmes;
- Encouraging young women and adolescent girls' civic engagement, also in partnership with youth organisations, scaling up support to parliamentary monitoring organisations run by and engaging young people and bringing together EU and partner country representatives;
- reducing gender stereotypes in media content, in cooperation with the audio-visual sector and the media, and empowering and supporting women's rights as users and producers of information, and as entrepreneurs and decision-makers in the sector;
- enhancing equal legal capacity and access for women to justice through support to grassroots efforts and to legal and justice systems reforms;
- Promoting an enabling and safe environment, including online, for civil society, girls and women's rights organisations, women's human rights defenders, peacebuilders, women journalists and representatives of indigenous people. Strengthen protection mechanisms and to support women's leadership roles will include global and regional hubs, and advocacy and actions that document violations against defenders of women's human rights.

# Integrating the women, peace and security agenda

## EU action should contribute to:

- supporting and conducting capacity-building and mentoring on women's leadership, for women negotiators and mediators, to improve their effectiveness and the quality of their participation in peace processes;
- working towards reaching at least 33% of women participating in all EU activities and projects related to peace processes;
- establishing and institutionalising consultative mechanisms on all conflict-related issues with grassroots women activists and CSOs, both in Member States and in conflict-related settings, where there are CSDP missions and operations;
- rolling out mandatory training on mainstreaming gender perspectives for all staff at HQ, EU delegations, CSDP missions and operations, etc.;
- promoting and supporting inclusive policies/activities across the whole WPS agenda with full and equitable participation, also by men and boys;
- promoting the strengthening of the rule of law, the criminal justice system through transitional and restorative justice, and Security Sector Reform (SSR), to end impunity for perpetrators of SGBV crimes;
- promoting the provision of medical, psycho-social, legal and safety support to all victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual and/or gender-based violence/SGBV. As already agreed in the EU Action Plan on WPS.

## Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation: *Promoting a fair and inclusive green transition*

- promoting girls' and women's participation and leadership in order to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources;
- supporting women networks in green transition sectors such as sustainable forest management, agriculture and energy;
- capacity-building, financing and support for investment in gender-responsive national climate, environment and disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans;
- supporting women's entrepreneurship and employment in the green, blue and circular economy, including clean cooking and sustainable energy, sustainable fishing activities, by promoting a gender-transformative approach to agriculture, fishing and aquaculture and food systems, based on (i) capacity building for rural women; (ii) policy reforms to regulate more fairly land tenure and to manage natural resources and (iii) economic empowerment and access to finance;
- improving data collection on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and environmental degradation to inform gender-responsive policies and action.



# Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation: *Grasp opportunities for women empowerment through digitalisation*

## EU action should contribute to:

- Promoting policy and regulatory reform in partner countries, ensuring that digital transformation aligns with the EU's human-centric approach, bringing benefits to all, while protecting human rights, both online and offline, and ensuring a safe and secure cyber space, where data are protected in line with EU standards (e.g. GDPR);
  - Improving access of girls and women to affordable, accessible, safe and secure digital connectivity, reaching out to the rural and remote areas;
  - Promoting digital literacy for girls in education, as well as digital skills for jobs and entrepreneurship while addressing the gender norms and stereotypes that steer women and girls away from technology;
  - Supporting women digital innovators and entrepreneurs across multiple industrial ecosystems to build an inclusive digital economy, for example via public-private partnerships such as the International Finance Corporation, with the aim of closing the digital gender gap in big tech companies;
  - Supporting the provision of public and private services through gender-responsive digital channels, technologies and services (e.g. e-government, digital financial services) that will enhance women and girls' inclusion and participation in the society.
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