

Panel Discussion

Budgeting for Women's Rights: Where is the commitment?

Gender and development in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

19. September 2018, 18:00 – 20:00

Otto Mauer Zentrum, Währinger Str. 2-4, 1090 Vienna

Women's organizations play a crucial role in advancing women's human rights, yet they are marginalized when it comes to donor funding. The EU is committed to play a leading role in supporting international initiatives to promote women's and girls' rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The adoption of a gender-responsive budget and adequate funding would be a prerequisite to match these ambitions and to ensure meaningful impact in the lives of women and girls in developing countries. But how does the reality in EU development politics look like?

In this discussion, experiences of civil society organisations, especially of women's rights organisations in developing countries, will be shared. Do they have access to EU funding? Are feminist organizations included in political dialogue processes with EU institutions? Are women's needs on the ground taken into account? Which lessons can be drawn for the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan until 2020 and for the negotiations of the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)? The panellists will expose their views on how EU, member states and civil society organisations can contribute to fulfil women's rights and reach the SDGs based on a gender-responsive approach and targeted action.

Panellists:

Eunice Musiime, Executive Director of *Akina Mama wa Afrika*, Uganda

Fabienne Van Den Eede, Deputy Head of the *Gender equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance* Unit in the Development Cooperation DG of the European Commission

Désirée Schweitzer, Director of the Section *Development* in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Céline Mias, Director of CARE International's Brussels Office, Board member of CONCORD Europe

Facilitator:

Sonia Nižnik, Advisor in the European Parliament

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About:

Eunice Musiime

Eunice Musiime is a lawyer, feminist and human rights activist. She is the Executive Director of *Akina Mama wa Afrika* (AMWA), a feminist, pan African non-governmental organization with headquarters in Uganda. A flagship programme of *Akina Mama* is the *African Women's Leadership Institute* that has built the capacity of over 5.000 women in feminist and transformative leadership to effectively influence policy and practice on the African continent. Eunice Musiime holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Fabienne Van Den Eede

Fabienne Van Den Eede has been working for the European Commission for 19 years in different functions. She joined the Development Cooperation DG in 2001 where she worked on several topics and issues in the ACP countries and the Neighbourhood region. The last 8 years she has spent in Africa, in Kenya working on Kenya and Somalia as Head of Finance and Contract, and in Zambia as Head of the Governance and Social Section. Since November 2017, Fabienne Van Den Eede is the Deputy Head of Unit of the "Human Rights, Democratic Governance and Gender Equality" Unit in the Development Cooperation Directorate General of the European Union.

Désirée Schweitzer

Désirée Schweitzer assumed the position of Director General, Department for Development Cooperation, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs in March 2018. She was Deputy Head of the Austrian Permanent Mission to the OSCE as well as Deputy Head of Division in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs for OSCE and Council of Europe Affairs from 2008. As a diplomat, her overseas postings have included Washington, D.C., New York and Islamabad. Désirée Schweitzer holds a Doctor of Law degree from the University in Vienna is an alumna of the Austrian Diplomatic Academy.

Céline Mias

Céline Mias is the director of CARE International's Brussels Office since 2013 and a member of the board of the NGO Platform CONCORD Europe since 2018. She has over 20 years of experience leading humanitarian and development NGO programmes and advocacy across Europe, Africa and Asia. A committed feminist and civil society activist, she has particular expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment; humanitarian policy and programmes; global health; civil society strengthening; and European Union external action policies and budgets. Céline Mias holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Russian from McGill University and a Master's degree in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge.

Sonia Nižnik

Sonia Nižnik is an advisor to MEP Maria Heubuch, the Greens/EFA spokesperson on development in the European Parliament. In this role, she currently follows the negotiations on the next EU budget for development. Before joining the EP, Sonia Nižnik worked for various public policy institutions and organisations in Brussels, Geneva and Vienna, including the Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid (AG Globale Verantwortung).



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