



# Girls' Summit 2017 Recommendations

We are very glad that the discussions today gathered many different voices - thank you very much for contributing to the recommendations we just heard back from the different groups. As civil society advocates, we strive to be the link between girls' voices and EU policy-making processes – for the former to be heard and for the latter to be hearable. We believe that as the first global donor, and a proclaimed champion for gender equality, the EU bears a great responsibility towards young girls and this is why we are organizing this week every year. This is also why we prepared a few key recommendations, specific to the EU context, to share with you today and I will try to link those with what we just heard from the group.

In recent years we saw the EU taking steps to strengthen its framework for action towards girls. We welcomed for example the new EU Guidelines on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child or the next roadmap of the Africa-EU partnership with its focus on youth. We saw the new Consensus for Development explicitly, for the first time, recognize girls' rights and acknowledge girls as key agents of change. The Gender Action Plan II also represents a clear improvement on its predecessor in terms of scope and ambition. Finally, the long-standing EU commitments towards ICPD and the Beijing Platform of Action have been strongly reiterated at many occasions.

So today is about making things happen, because a framework is only ever as good as its implementation.

And the first thing is that this will not happen without resources. Gender budgeting at all levels is key right now to make sure the EU goes full speed on its commitments. Actions in that realm must include the involvement of gender experts in budgetary decision-making, the definition of gender-specific objectives and clear targets as well as strong monitoring systems. In particular, we believe a specific target for targeted action (or G2) programmes and the introduction of gender- and age-sensitive eligibility criteria in the EC Budget Support Guidelines would be very important steps. The mid-term review of the current multi-annual financial framework, and the early steps of defining the next one, are also critical moments that should be used to review the actual EU impact on girls' lives. Maybe here the EU can take a cue from the budget choices made by the Thrive group.

We use "Impact" and we don't want for it to be a buzzword or an afterthought. If the EU wants to make sure its action is effective, critically reviewing programmes regularly to adjust them is the best way to do so. This cannot be done without strong and sound data. We know that gender and age disaggregated

data as well as comprehensive context analysis can ensure that the tools the EU has at its disposal are truly transformative and making a difference. Including gender consistently in impact and performance assessments at headquarters and EU Delegation levels, empowering staff on gender and the “how to”, supporting statistical capacity at home and abroad, and improving the monitoring and tracking of funding, these are all important areas of work that need to be invested in. The Inspire group discussed the need for the EU to take these decisions based on girls’ needs.

Working on norms and discrimination must be central to the EU action, as all three young speakers told us this morning. Social norms and coercive laws and policies still too often prevent girls from acquiring key skills, participating in society and politics, having control over their bodies, and becoming advocates in their own right. We are looking forward to see how the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative will work in that regard. We are also looking at whether the EU will step up its funding towards the Global Partnership for Education, and whether it will extend the scope of its Equal Treatment Directive to fight against discrimination in the fields of education and media. The Succeed group very clearly highlighted the systemic link between education and gender stereotypes, and the norm setting role the EU can play. This is relevant internally and externally for the EU to ensure we are consistent and live by what we preach.

The EU cannot do this alone and we do hope this week of action, as a collective endeavour, is also a good example of what working together can achieve. From better cooperation with Member States at country level to long-term engagement with civil society, including women’s and youth organizations, from involving men and boys to having a dialogue with faith leaders, collaborations are clearly necessary to make a substantial European contribution to the realization of Agenda 2030 for all including for girls worldwide. We heard today in all groups how role models are important to empower girls and the EU certainly can enable solidarity among girls with political support to such initiatives.

So after today, we are looking forward to continuing the discussion on the implementation of all these key processes and documents, for a real impact on girls’ lives. Thank you.