Resolution on the EU priorities for the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

2022/2536(RSP) - 17/02/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 526 votes to 67, with 91 abstentions, a resolution on the EU priorities for the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, Renew, Greens/EFA, and The Left groups.

The resolution stressed that women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compounds inequalities and often prevents women from fully contributing to and participating in policymaking, planning and implementation related to climate change and environmental and disaster risks. According to Parliament, women need to play stronger roles in the climate change space as leaders, elected representatives, professionals and technical agents for change.

The gender dimension of climate change is acknowledged in the EU's gender equality strategy for 2020-2025. However, the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its multifaceted effects on society, including the deepening of pre-existing social and gender inequalities, may negatively impact the implementation of effective gender responsive climate action.

The 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women is to be held from 14 to 25 March 2022.

Under this resolution, Parliament addressed the following recommendations to the Council:

- to reconfirm its unwavering commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and subsequent review conferences and to the range of actions for gender equality;

- to ensure the full involvement of Parliament and its Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the decision-making process regarding the EU's position at the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and ensure that it has adequate information and access to the EU position document ahead of the negotiations;

- to ensure that the EU shows strong leadership and takes a unified position on the importance of empowering women and achieving gender equality in the context of combating climate change, and to take strong action to univocally denounce any form of backlash against gender equality or measures undermining women's rights, autonomy and emancipation in every field;

- to call on all UN member states, together with the EU, to ensure adequate funding for UN Women.

Parliament made a series of recommendations in the following areas:

Women's economic empowerment

As women's economic empowerment is essential for sustainable development and economic growth, Parliament recommended increased efforts for greater inclusion of women in the labour market and to

improve support for **female entrepreneurship** in the areas of climate and environmental technology and research. It also called for a boost to innovation in these crucial areas while encouraging women's financial independence.

The EU and the Member States are called on to promote access for women in all their diversity to emerging job opportunities in the green transition with a view to ensuring that green jobs are equally beneficial and accessible for all.

Women's access to information and education, including in the areas of science, technology and economics should be increased, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participation in environmental decisions while fighting gender stereotypes.

Moreover, while acknowledging that the sectors in which the majority of the workforce is female are carbon-neutral (such as care), these sectors should be promoted according to Parliament as means of addressing climate change and the just transition.

Eradicating gender-based violence and guaranteeing women's fundamental rights

The resolution called for the commitment to fight gender-based violence in all its forms to be strengthened. It called for women affected by climate change and environmental disasters, especially against displacement, poverty, human trafficking, gender-based violence and food insecurity, to be protected and ensure that they have access to essential services and adequate and accessible sanitation, and to safeguard their physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Members recommended further specific support for women environmental human rights defenders and that violations and abuses against them are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable. Adequate funding should be provided to grassroots organisations for women's rights and for restrictions impeding their ability to operate be removed.

The resolution also emphasised the need to protect and promote the rights of groups experiencing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, including women with disabilities, Black women and women of colour, migrant and ethnic-minority women, older women, women in rural and depopulated areas, single mothers and LGBTIQ people.