

Feminist Foreign Policy

2022 Australasian AID Conference

*Panel: „Opportunities for Feminist Foreign Policy in the
Indo-Pacific“*

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The ambition: Coalition Treaty of December 2021

„ (...) we want to strengthen rights, resources and representation of women and girls and help increase diversity in societies globally. We want to second more women into positions of international leadership, ambitiously move forward and develop further our National Plan of Action in implementing UN resolution 1325.“

The objective: Guidelines for FFP by March 2023

- Intensive consultation process including international partners, civil society and our own FFO staff.*
- Important milestone: Conference on „Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy“ 12/09/22 in Berlin, with various workshops and keynote by FM Baerbock*
- A „call for papers“ and invitation to CSO to provide input to guidelines.*
- Opportunity for staff across Federal Government to contribute ideas.*

Rationale of FFP:

- Gender equality and equitable participation are preconditions to realize our core interests of achieving and maintaining sustainable peace and security*
- Upcoming inaugural National Security Strategy will work with a broad definition of human security in which FFP plays an integral part.*

What are the FFP guidelines to achieve?

- Define scope of FFP and embed it into a broader foreign policy framework*
- Spell out concrete FFP approach for various fields of action - human rights promotion, humanitarian assistance, peace building and stabilization efforts, climate change policies etc.*
- Specify policy instruments and define priority measures*

Challenges and Misconceptions

- *FFP is a method and not a field of action, i.e. it's about mainstreaming*
- *FFP is not about focussing on women and girls as victims* but as important agents of change in all policy fields*

- *Feminist terminology can be an obstacle to acceptance of the concept. Conclusions paper of FFO conference speaks of „commitment to a foreign policy in which gender equality, women's rights and the equal, full and meaningful participation of all parts of society is central“.*
- *Similar danger of „west-plaining“ and lack of awareness of post-colonial perspectives and sensitivities.*

**although it can be in specific circumstances, e.g. conflict situations (CRSV) and/or sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).*

Data and quantification are important

- Good practice: Feminist Development Policy, as developed by German BMZ: In a report to Federal Parliament, BMZ committed to achieving benchmarks in line with OECD-DAC criteria. By 2025, percentage of projects with „Gender Equality“ as main objective to grow from <4% to 8% of total project expenditure (for „Gender Equality“ as an „additional objective“ from 60% to 85%).

→ in an aid context, FFP can be measured, i.e. successful „gender budgeting“

- Much to be achieved yet in field of feminist economic theory. There is still a profound lack of gender disaggregated data on economic activities. This puts limits on our ability to address economic imbalances. Still , there are many ideas how to improve the situation („wise women think tanks“, no business delegations without women, networks of female entrepreneurs etc.)

For discussion:

Which of these ideas and concepts lend themselves specifically to the Indo-Pacific? Examples:

- Bougainville – Role of women in conflict prevention*
- South Pacific – consequences of climate change*
- Myanmar – CRSV documentation and prosecution*

Thank you for your attention!



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