

German Feminist Foreign Policy from a perspective of an International Women´s Organisation

Written by Christine Heinze, BPW International and W 7 Advisor

After Sweden, France, Canada, and Mexico have implemented a Feminist Foreign Policy, Germany follows suite and intends to implement a Feminist Foreign Policy during the federal election period 2021-2025.

From a perspective of an International Women´s Organisation with affiliates in over 100 countries we strongly welcome the initiative of the German Government to implement a Feminist Foreign Policy. Germany is a role model for many countries and acts as a sample for other governments in Foreign Policy around the world but especially in the framework of relevant EU policy.

In our view, it will not be sufficient for Germany to just focus on rights, representation and resources for women and girls. Feminist Foreign Policy needs to include further aspects as Multilateralism, Foreign Trade Policy, Development Policy, Security Policy, Climate Policy, EU Taxonomy, Humanitarian Aid, Migration, Violence against Women and not to forget Gender Budgeting. Most of those aspects need a cross-sectoral approach to ensure accomplishment and demand Feminist Foreign Policy to coordinate and cooperate intensively and in a structured way with other relevant federal ministries and institutions. Feminist Foreign Policy should not try to „invent the wheel again“ but utilise the existing and on-going initiatives by other federal ministries, institutions and civil society e.g. Deutscher Frauenrat, European Women´s Lobby etc. Further on, existing initiatives, resolutions, conventions, e.g. CEDAW, Istanbul Convention, UN Resolution 1325, Women´s Empowerment Principles etc. shall be the foundation and guideline for German Feminist Foreign Policy.

BPW International is an International Women´s Organisation for business and professional women. Its members include women leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, executives, professionals and young business and professional women. Thus, our members suggest that the German Feminist Foreign Policy

1. promotes Women´s Empowerment Principles through Bi- and Multilateral Trade Agreements, Trade Policy, Trade Initiatives, Ambassadors and Economic Envoys of German Embassies.
2. ensures, while negotiating on EU-Taxonomy (non-financial reporting), that the social dimension within ESG (Environment, Social, Government) includes and refers to all aspects of Gender Equality.
3. enables a bottom-up approach within the German Federal Foreign Ministry and its affiliates (e.g. embassies etc.) on analyses, strategies, actions and initiatives related to Feminist Foreign Policies in close cooperation with civil society.
4. implements representation on Gender Equality (e.g. Gender Beauftragte, Gender Envoy etc.) within the German Federal Foreign Ministry and all major and relevant German embassies and affiliates comparable to the current practice of thematic representation in app. 80 embassies by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Economics, Deutsche Bundesbank etc. to ensure a cross-sectoral implementation of Feminist Foreign Policy.

5. ensures the gender perspective if the German Federal Foreign Ministry cooperates with initiatives of Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI) and Chambers of Commerce abroad.
6. supports institutional funding needs of umbrella organisations for women on International and European level e.g. European Women´s Lobby etc.
7. studies the best-practises, experiences and evaluations on Gender Budgeting in Colombia and feeds in the results into the Gender Budgeting decisions and implementations of the Federal Government of Germany.
8. implements a strong monitoring on its Feminist Foreign Policy.