



**2015/2229(INI)**

12.11.2015

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2014 and  
the European Union's policy on the matter  
(2015/2229(INI))

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that respect for human rights, gender equality, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security are prerequisites for the eradication of poverty and inequalities and are central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; recalls that human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible and interdependent and that cultural diversity cannot in consequence be invoked as a justification for infringing human rights, which are guaranteed by international law and based on natural law;
2. Insists that harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages, gendercide including girl infanticide or female foeticide, honour crimes, or denial of a proper education for women should therefore be banned, and violations of such prohibitions severely punished; strongly condemns the continued use of rape of women and girls as a weapon of war; stresses that more needs to be done to ensure respect for international law and access to health and psychological care for women and girls abused in conflicts, including the full range of sexual and reproductive health services for victims of war rape;
3. Stresses the need to ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its monitoring measures and its future implementation by all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, are underpinned by human-rights and gender-equality based approaches as well as that of the eradication of poverty, reduction of inequalities and social exclusion, and democratisation of the economy, and should include women's rights, including sexual and reproductive health and other rights, LGTBI rights, minority rights, including those of sexual minorities and disabled people, children's rights, strengthened political participation by citizens, democratic values, good governance, the promotion of democracy, and the fight against corruption, impunity, tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax havens;
4. Underlines that the EU should address the external dimension of the migration crisis and both the root causes of poverty in third countries and the root causes of migration from third countries to Europe, while recognising that the nexus between migration, security and development is complex and multi-dimensional and cannot be reduced to a mechanical and simplistic link between more development aid and less migrants; recalls the principle of non-refoulement and urges the EU and its Member States not to cooperate with some third countries, in particular those where civil war is ongoing or where there is no functioning or accepted government; underlines that children and women are particularly vulnerable in the current crisis;
5. Stresses that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda committed to delivering a universal social protection floor, universal health coverage and essential public services for all, including health and education;
6. Urges the EU to reinforce its role as a strong promoter of human rights in the world, by the effective, consistent and considered use of all available instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights and its defenders and the effectiveness of our development

aid policy, in line with the new SDG 16; encourages the Commission to monitor the implementation of its toolbox for a rights-based approach and to ensure that human rights and development cooperation are mutually reinforcing on the ground; requests that the EU Annual Report on Human Rights attach more importance to the role of development cooperation;

7. Calls for the EU and its delegations to increase their political dialogue with governments in breach of human rights, democracy and the rule of the law, together with civil society, and insists that the political dialogue on human rights between the EU and third countries must cover a more inclusive and comprehensive definition of non-discrimination, inter alia towards LGBTI people and on the basis of religion or belief, sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability and sexual orientation; underlines that, particularly in countries which have poor records in both development and respect for human rights, development aid should be maintained and even strengthened, but should preferably be channelled through civil society organisations and non-governmental local partners, and be systematically monitored, along with governmental commitments to improving the human rights situation on the ground;
8. Recalls the primary importance of the principle of Policy Coherence for Development; urges the Commission and the Member States, therefore, to ensure that human rights are genuinely protected in the remit of any agreements concluded or revised with developing countries, through binding human rights clauses; recommends a procedure for consultation between the parties, detailing the political and legal mechanisms to be used in the event of a request for bilateral cooperation to be suspended, but also a warning mechanism and process for descriptive and evaluation purposes; insists that the Commission conduct systematic human rights impact assessments of trade and investment agreements to help ensure effective enforcement of human rights; urges that the genuine enforcement of GSP Plus be implemented alongside a suitable transparent reporting mechanism and funding for civil society monitoring; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to support legal frameworks and initiatives aimed at transparency and good governance of mining and other resource sectors;
9. Stresses the need for reinforced corporate accountability and transparency mechanisms, and for initiatives aimed at implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; asks the Commission to encourage Member States to report on this implementation; calls on the Commission to take all necessary initiatives to present a legally binding international instrument on business activities and human rights within the framework of the United Nations; in particular, insists upon the need to analyse the consequences of the activities of corporations for human rights in developing countries and to set up effective remedies to sanction corporations in breach of human rights and to provide redress for the victims of such breaches; highlights the obligation to respect international labour standards, in line with the fulfilment of the ILO Decent Work Agenda;
10. Underlines the importance of property rights and land tenure security in protecting small farmers and local communities from inconsequential land acquisitions by state and non-state actors, including corporations or unwarranted claims to land by national governments; calls for stronger protection of property rights in developing countries, with special attention to be given to land tenure security, as well as to intellectual property

rights;

11. Calls for the EU and its delegations to increase their political dialogue with governments in breach of human rights, democracy and the rule of the law, stopping all association treaties and agreements currently in force with those countries, and insists that the political dialogue on human rights between the EU and third countries must cover a more inclusive and comprehensive definition of non-discrimination, inter alia on the basis of religion or belief, sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity; reiterates that the involvement of civil society in this dialogue is crucial to promoting the effective enjoyment of human rights, and stresses the key role the EU can have in strengthening the role of civil society in this regard;
12. Recognises that human rights such as freedom of religion, thought or expression play a direct role in the promotion and protection of cultural diversity and that enjoyment of human rights is promoted by a pluralistic society.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	10.11.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 1 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Ignazio Corrao, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Nathan Gill, Charles Goerens, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Pedro Silva Pereira, Davor Ivo Stier, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Rainer Wieland, Anna Záborská
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Paul Rübig, Joachim Zeller