



CONCORD's key messages for European Elections 2024

No matter where we live, we all want a better quality of life. Unfortunately, high levels of inequality persist between countries and regions, preventing millions of people from enjoying a dignified standard of living. Many struggle to make ends meet, feeling isolated and insecure in the face of challenges such as the climate crisis and armed conflicts. Being disproportionately affected by global crises, the EU's partner countries are often unable to provide access to nutritious food, good health, quality education and other basic services to their citizens.

The COVID-19 pandemic clearly showed that what happens in other parts of the world affects our lives and vice-versa. A truly sustainable and democratic EU is not possible without addressing inequalities internally and worldwide. Together with our elected representatives, we can all contribute to creating a world where everyone thrives. The 2024 European Elections offer a key opportunity to take on this challenge seriously.

CONCORD calls on the Members of the European Parliament elected in 2024 and the renewed EU institutions to embrace four priorities in order to transform existing power structures while building equitable and inclusive societies in a sustainable world. The EU's approach to these priorities must be developed in partnership with civil society, and the European Parliament plays a key role in taking them forward.

1. An EU feminist foreign policy. We call on Members of the European Parliament to champion an EU intersectional, feminist and rights-based foreign policy, by:

- Promoting a foreign policy that rebalances power structures and addresses intersecting inequalities and their underlying harmful norms. It would put people, communities and countries that have been marginalised at the centre of policy-making and promote collaboration over competition. It would also enshrine human rights, pursue human security and feminist peace, sustainable development, environmental integrity, and put power- and resource-sharing and caring at the forefront. This means promoting equality for all across different areas of external action and in the work of all European Parliament's committees and delegations as well as other institutions.
- Promoting the benefits of developing an EU Intersectional Feminist Foreign Policy with the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Member States.
- Calling on the Commission to commit to increasing the direct funding to feminist movements and women's rights organisations, defending and expanding the civic space of these organisations, and engaging directly with them. The Commission should particularly focus on those organisations facing intersecting forms of discrimination such as local and rural WROs, CSOs led by young women and girls, organisations for women with disabilities, and LGBTIQ CSOs.
- Highlighting the importance of tackling structural and intersecting inequalities, and building their arguments and discussions around the values of European accountability, human rights, gender equality, sustainability, social justice and inclusion.

2. Consistent action for sustainable development. We call on Members of the European Parliament to champion the Sustainable Development Goals and promote policy coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by:

- Raising awareness of potentially negative impacts of EU policies, programming and other actions on partner countries across the Parliament's committees and while working with other EU institutions.
- Calling on the European Commission to develop institutional mechanisms to assess and address the external impacts - economic, social, environmental and political - of EU policies on partner countries as an integral part of its policy-making.
- Urging the European Commission to ensure the coherence of policies aimed at promoting a just transition towards an economy that puts equality and the well-being of people and the planet at its centre in the EU and in partner countries.
- Holding the European Commission accountable for its progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals while applying a human rights-based approach and ensuring the coherence of all policies in this area.

3. Preserving civic space and democracy. We call on Members of the European Parliament to protect, promote and enable civic space globally and push for more EU engagement with civil society in a meaningful, inclusive and safe way, by:

- Demanding that the EU increase dialogue with all types of civil society actors at all levels and throughout all stages of the policy cycle, while leading by example by consulting civil society on parliamentary files related to such key topics as the Global Gateway, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), environment and climate change, the EU budget, civic space and human rights, and EU - African Union partnership.
- Calling for and resourcing the full and comprehensive implementation of the [OECD DAC Recommendation](#) on Enabling Civil Society with the particular aim of shifting power and supporting the localisation agenda.
- Calling on the European Commission and the EEAS to take a strong political stand to promote an open civic space and protect human rights defenders, and actively use resources and tools to prevent the shrinking of CSO funding and spaces inside and outside the EU.
- Pushing for more transparency in EU decision-making with regards to international, regional and bilateral relations to build equal, fair and meaningful partnerships based on the principles of democracy and human rights.

4. Sufficient and transparent funding for sustainable development. We call on Members of the European Parliament to scrutinise the implementation of the EU's international cooperation budget to ensure its transparency, accountability and consistency with the 2030 Agenda, by:

- Urging the European Commission to provide more detailed figures on the implementation of the targets of the Global Europe: Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), in particular with regards to Official Development Assistance, human development, climate, migration, gender and funding for CSOs. The Parliament should be also informed ahead of each mobilisation of the NDICI cushion funds.
- Maintaining regular quality consultations with civil society on the monitoring and evaluation of NDICI, including during the Commission-Parliament geostrategic dialogue.
- Calling for the transparency of Global Gateway projects and Team Europe initiatives, including the possibility to access data in a timely, transparent, and accessible way.
- Monitoring NDICI and all Global Gateway projects with regards to their impact on equality in partner countries, including by pushing for the meaningful implementation of the Inequality, Gender and Disability Markers.

