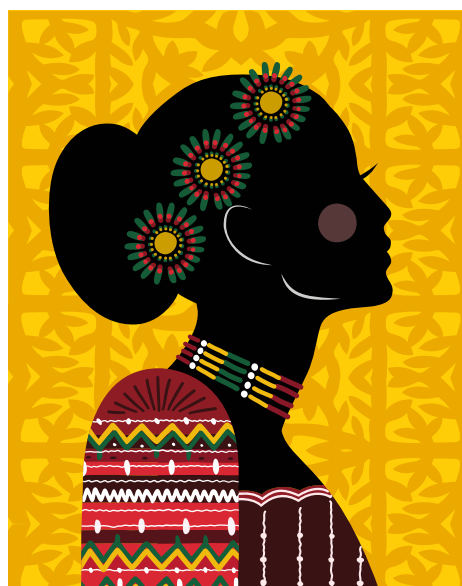


Executive Summary

Spanish Cooperation Feminist Cooperation Strategy





MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO
DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE POLÍTICAS
DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

UNDERSECRETARIAT

General Technical Secretariat

General Technical Vice-Secretariat

Documentation and Publications Department

© Ministry of Foreign Affairs European Union and Cooperation for this edition.
State Secretariat for International Cooperation.
General Directorate for Sustainable Development Policies.

© Images AECID

NIPO: 108-25-048-4 (Paper)

NIPO: 108-25-049-X (Online)

Legal registration: M-24566-2025

Design: IMPLICATE.ORG

Printing: Directorate General for Communication, Public Diplomacy and Networks.

Published in 2025.

Publications Catalogue of the General State Administration:

<https://cpage.mpr.gob.es/>

This publication uses recycled chlorine-free paper and/or virgin fibre paper from sustainably managed forests with the "FSC" certificate, in accordance with the environmental criteria for public procurement.

Any form of reproduction, distribution, public communication or transformation of this work may only be carried out with the authorisation of its owners, unless otherwise provided by law.



01

Current context, lessons learned and frame of reference

Despite the significant progress made on gender equality, 30 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and just a few years short of the deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), **none of the SDG5 gender-equality targets have been met.**



In a context of multiple crises (economic, ecological and social), along with the COVID-19 pandemic and armed conflict, we have witnessed an increase in inequality and rights violations affecting a large portion of the world's population, –and women, adolescents and girls in particular–. Furthermore, we are seeing a concerning rise in anti-rights discourses and positions. Nevertheless, at the same time and with widespread citizen support, civil society and especially feminist movements and women's and human rights organisations, have taken to the streets to reassert and defend the feminist agenda.

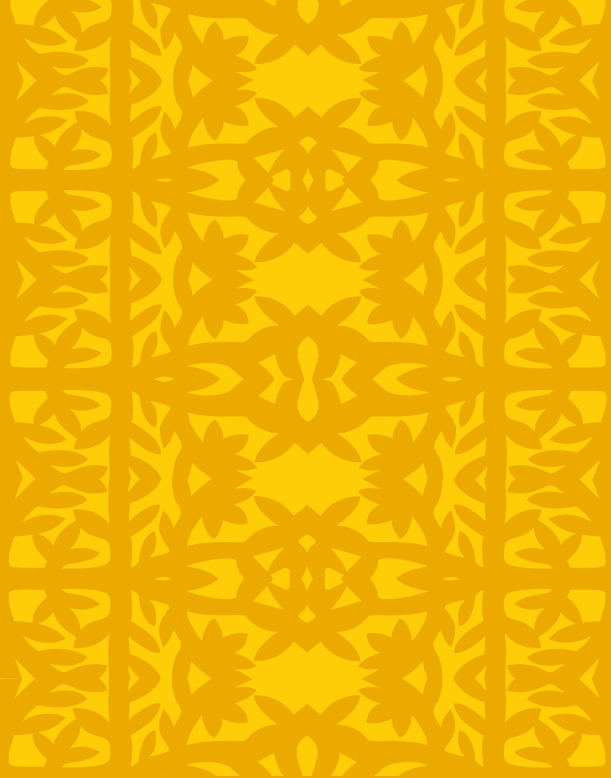
This **Feminist Cooperation Strategy** is firmly rooted in this context, while building on the efforts of Spanish Cooperation within the framework of the previous Spanish Cooperation Gender and Development Strategy, approved in 2007, which championed gender equality in line with international and national commitments. The strategy also embraces the principles underlying Spain's strong commitment to a Feminist Foreign Policy, in place since 2021.

This feminist approach has been incorporated into legislation, with Act 1/2023 on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation and is central to the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity 2024–2027.

Spanish Cooperation's embrace of feminism represents an opportunity to harness the transformative potential of the Gender and Development approach. It is an approach that insists upon the need to incorporate the gender perspective and analysis into development processes, with a focus on tackling and transforming established structural inequalities. This approach is enriched by the inclusion of different concepts and areas of focus, including human rights, cultural diversity and peacebuilding. These areas are not treated in isolation, but rather take the form of cross-cutting approaches defined in our Master Plan, together with reducing poverty and inequality, environmental sustainability and climate justice. This serves to consolidate this method of tackling the challenges facing sustainable development, from a perspective that embraces intersectionality, ecofeminism, and the feminist and care economy.

At the same time, we must ensure that sufficient resources are in place for the implementation of the Strategy. These include both financial and specialised human resources. It is also imperative to drive change in the organisational culture of Spanish Cooperation stakeholders, while also ensuring that adequate planning and management tools are available.

The Strategy adheres to a frame of reference that includes the most important commitments on gender equality. International commitments include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), now celebrating its 30th anniversary; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994); and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), which takes up and expands on these commitments. These tools and agreements have marked important milestones, including the adoption of national legislation and public policies promoting equality between women and men and on gender-based violence. These legislative and policy instruments have proven crucial for feminist cooperation, in particular Organic Act 1/2004, of 28 December, on protection measures against gender violence, and Organic Act 3/2007, of 22 March, for the effective equality between women and men, as well as policies in the area of cooperation for sustainable development and feminist foreign policy.



02

Strategic framework

We define feminist cooperation, in line with the dual strategic focus of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as a form of cooperation that **addresses structural gender inequalities** from an **intersectional approach**, transforming the **power structures** that perpetuate them in order to achieve an **equitable and sustainable redistribution**.

Pillars of feminist cooperation

<p>Rights</p>	<p>Contribute to achieving gender equality and the promotion and full realisation of the rights of women, adolescents and girls, with particular emphasis on combating gender-based violence and consolidating the effective exercise of sexual and reproductive rights. Rights also help strengthen civic and democratic space, especially civil society.</p>
<p>Representation</p>	<p>Balanced participation of women and men in decision-making in the different spheres of life, with a special focus on fostering feminist leadership in partner countries, strengthening regulatory frameworks and public policies, and promoting changes in the organisational culture of Spanish Cooperation stakeholders.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Increasing the budget dedicated to actions aimed at achieving gender equality, as part of the adoption of a feminist foreign policy and cooperation policy and in line with Spain's commitment to allocate 0.7% of GDP to Official Development Assistance by 2030. In this regard, a commitment is made that at least 60% of the actions will focus on gender equality.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Partnerships are an essential element in developing initiatives to achieve gender equality and sustainable development, promoting and protecting the rights of all women and girls. The building of strategic partnerships will be fostered through collaboration with international, national and partner country bodies from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society organisations, and women's organisations in particular.</p>

Cross-cutting approaches applied

Feminist cooperation will apply the cross-cutting approaches of the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan 2024–2027. In this regard, the actions carried out within the framework of feminist cooperation will incorporate:

- **The human rights approach**

As the recognition and protection of human rights is a guiding principle of cooperation policy for sustainable development, taking into account the intersection with other factors that intensify situations of gender inequality and discrimination.

- **The poverty and inequality reduction approach**

A basic principle covering the many causes and effects of the feminisation of poverty, and the unequal distribution of income, wealth and opportunity.

- **The climate justice and environmental sustainability approach**

Taking into account the gender impact and with an ecofeminist approach, and giving visibility to the key role of women as agents for change.

- **The cultural diversity approach**

With a gender perspective and an intersectional approach.

- **The peacebuilding approach**

In line with the commitments assumed under the Women, Peace and Security agenda, both in humanitarian action and in development and education actions for sustainable development and global citizenship.

General goal

Contribute to the elimination of structural gender inequalities, using an intersectional approach, by transforming the power structures that perpetuate them in order to achieve an equal, inclusive and sustainable redistribution of opportunities and resources in all countries.

Specific objectives

Strengthen the four pillars of Feminist Cooperation: Rights, Representation, Resources and Partnerships in all Spanish Cooperation policies, instruments, tools, resources and actions.

Integrate the feminist approach into the diagnosis, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all processes, policies, instruments, tools, resources and actions of Spanish Cooperation, in both a cross-cutting and a specific dimension.

Strategic lines

In order to achieve the specific objectives, which will feed into the general objective, five strategic lines are proposed:

- 1 Fight against all forms of gender-based violence and develop legislative frameworks to guarantee the rights of women, girls and adolescents.
- 2 Promote women's civil and political rights and their real and effective participation.
- 3 Foster and protect the sexual and reproductive rights of all women, girls and adolescents and combat harmful practices.
- 4 Advance towards care-centred societies, policies, and economies, and promote women's economic and employment rights for sustainable development.
- 5 Advance in the integration of the feminist approach within Spanish Cooperation by reinforcing institutionalisation and mainstreaming.

Actions within the framework of the 4 pillars of feminist cooperation

For the above strategic lines, the following actions are proposed:

Rights

This action will be taken to: prevent gender-based violence and provide care for victims and survivors, including in relation to harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation; combat trafficking and sexual exploitation; provide assistance and protection to women, adolescents and girls in situations of armed conflict; improve access to justice; promote economic and employment rights; move towards a care society that recognises its value and establishes it as a right, with an equal sharing of care work between women and men.

Representation

This action will be taken to: promote women's civil and political rights and their real and effective participation in decision-making; promote decent employment; support women's empowerment and leadership; advance the recognition and redistribution of care work; improve access to and tenure of land for rural women; and strengthen women's participation in humanitarian management.

Resources

This action will be taken to: promote a feminist approach in the organisational culture of Spanish Cooperation actors at all levels, including equality plans, training in feminist cooperation and measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse; ensure an increase in funding for gender equality and that all resources used have a feminist approach; promote access to funding for women's and feminist organisations, access to credit for women, and the elaboration and adoption of gender-sensitive budgets; and promote studies and support for good practices with a feminist perspective.

Partnerships

This action will be taken to: strengthen and renew partnerships with public, private, international, regional, national and local institutions, universities and research centres on issues of gender equality and feminism, the fight against gender-based violence, and civil, sexual and reproductive, economic and labour rights; channel partnership work with women's rights defenders; ensure horizontal partnerships with civil society, especially feminist and women's organisations and highlight their role; articulate joint work with the Autonomous Communities and Spanish local authorities; and encourage the participation of the private sector in financing for the development of SDG 5, within the framework of the results of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Seville Commitment.

Actions for the mainstreaming of the feminist approach

The development of strategic line 5 will take into account the target of 60% of the actions in new interventions incorporate development results with a clear positive impact on gender equality and equity. To this end, the number of initiatives with a major gender impact will be increased, as well as mainstreaming the feminist approach through the three transitions (social, ecological and economic) reflected in the Master Plan 2024-2027.





03

Operational, governance and policy coherence framework

In order to implement this Feminist Cooperation Strategy, it is essential to consider mainstreaming as a guiding principle that lends coherence to the entire system, and to apply the feminist approach in all **strategic planning and programming instruments**, as well as in the different **management modalities and instruments provided** for in Law 1/2023, including humanitarian action and education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

With regard to strategic planning instruments, key actions are proposed, such as the incorporation of the feminist approach in the Master Plans, Partnership Frameworks and Partnerships for Sustainable Development, and in thematic and multilateral strategies, with a specific section on how the feminist approach can be applied to objectives, results and resources. Spanish Cooperation boasts a great diversity of management instruments that each administration and institution uses according to its own characteristics and needs, and one of the challenges of feminist cooperation is to ensure that all of these instruments are imbued with the principles of feminism.

Working in partnerships is considered essential in order to achieve the objectives of feminist cooperation, both at the international level (United Nations, EU, international organisations, the private sector, actors in partner countries) and at the national level (including decentralised cooperation, universities, civil society, trade unions and employers' organisations, among others). In this regard, the Strategy proposes the need for a **governance structure that is efficient, participatory, transparent, flexible and accountable**, and that seeks to accommodate the horizontal representation of all Spanish Cooperation stakeholders in order to ensure active involvement that provides the necessary solidity for the Strategy's implementation.

To this end, existing structures will be strengthened, such as the coordination and consultation bodies defined in Act 1/2023 and others, avoiding duplication of functions and overburdening existing resources. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, through the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, will take the lead in the design and coordination of governance.

In all areas of the operational framework, the participation of women's organisations, including community-based organisations, will be promoted, thus ensuring that they have the capacity to make a real impact on policy adjustments and corrections.

Finally, it should be stressed that feminist cooperation is an important component of policy coherence, fostering an integrated vision of public policy and enabling analysis of the interactions between the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions, from a sustainable development and human rights perspective. The 2024-2027 Plan highlights this **link between feminist mainstreaming and policy coherence**. Its implementation entails the inclusion of a gender perspective across all public policies, at all levels and by all stakeholders. This intersectional approach also helps make sustainable development policies more coherent by placing the focus firmly on how the many different forms of discrimination are inextricably interrelated.



