

Sustainable development and human rights

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

During the second UPR, Austria received five recommendations to increase the level of its *Official Development Assistance (ODA)* to the internationally committed 0.7% of its *Gross National Income (GNI)* by Bangladesh, Benin, China, Senegal, and Uganda. (See also the recommendation of the *OECD Development Assistance Committee* in the Peer Review of Austria's development cooperation (2020), para 9). Austria received the recommendation to adopt a human rights-based approach in the programmes of *Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)*, by Trinidad and Tobago which is in line with a more detailed recommendation by the Committee on ESCR Rights (E/C.12/AUT/CO/4 in 2013, para 11). Austria supported all these recommendations of the second UPR and implemented them partially.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework for the ADC is the *Federal Development Cooperation Act* of 2002, amended in 2003, in which *Policy Coherence for Development* is also enshrined. The central development policy positions and the strategic framework are defined in the Three-Year Programmes on ADC. **Global Responsibility, the Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid**, is an umbrella organisation of 35 civil society member organisations active in the fields of development cooperation, development education and policy work as well as humanitarian aid.

CHALLENGES

Challenge a) In 2019, Austria spent only 0.27% of its GNI on ODA.

Challenge b) Not enough funding allocated to gender equality programmes

Challenge c) Human rights are a guiding principle in the current *Three Year-Programme of ADC*, however this programme is not implemented by all actors of ADC. The programme lacks more concrete measures and success indicators to monitor the effect.

IMPACTS

Impact a) If Austria does not reach the goal of 0.7% ODA of GNI in the near future, it impedes the implementation of all SDGs and human rights worldwide, especially SDG 17.

Impact b) Since gender equality is crucial for poverty eradication, a low share of gender equality targeted programmes leads to a drawback in realizing empowerment of women and girls as well as gender equality, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs (especially SDG 5) as well as human rights.

Impact c) There is a risk that programs of ADC do not consistently focus on the rights of marginalized and vulnerable people and do not consistently apply human rights principles such as transparency, equality or participation. The lack of adequate measures and success indicators hampers monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the guiding principle. Without proper human rights impact assessments prior to funding decisions there may be a risk of adverse impacts on human rights.

CHALLENGES

Challenge d) Rights of persons with disabilities are neither a consistent cross-cutting issue nor is the twin-track approach applied.

Challenge e) No effective mechanism to enhance *Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)*

IMPACTS

Impact d) Without disability inclusion, ADC does not address 15% of the population in its partner countries and up to 20% of women and girls.

Impact e) Austrian policies, for example in the fields of corporate taxation and the procurement of mineral resources, can have negative effects on development and human rights in the Global South if PCSD is not addressed more effectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation a) Austria should develop a plan to increase its ODA to 0.7% of GNI by setting interim targets, prioritising untied ODA and having sustainable development as the primary objective.

Recommendation b) Austria should substantially increase the funding for gender equality programmes.

Recommendation c) Austria should ensure that all actors of ADC apply a human rights-based approach by defining concrete measures and indicators to monitor its application and effect.

Recommendation d) Austria should integrate activities, measurable indicators and adequate resources for the inclusion and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities into humanitarian action and development cooperation, in line with international human rights obligations.

Recommendation e) Austria should empower and resource a focal point for the monitoring of PCSD which has the responsibility for developing an action plan to address key areas of incoherence.

QUESTIONS

How can Austria ensure that all actors of ADC substantially support the implementation of SDG 5? How does Austria ensure that all actors of ADC apply a human rights-based approach to all projects and programmes of its ODA? How does Austria ensure that all Austrian policies support and do not hinder the achievement of the *Agenda 2030 (PCSD)*? To what extent and how does Austria support the rights of women and girls with disabilities in its international cooperation, both through specific activities and through mainstreaming in general programming?

SOURCES

Joint civil society submission for third UPR of Austria: <https://www.globaleverantwortung.at/joint-submission-zur-3-universellen-menschenrechtspruefung-oesterreichs-2020>

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