

Udenrigsministeriet
Asiatisk Plads 2
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June, 12. 2024

Re.: Sex & Samfund / The Danish Family Planning Association's input to the Danish Organisation Strategy for the World Bank 2025-2030

The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide inputs and comments to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs draft Organisation Strategy for the World Bank (WB) 2025-2030.

We commend the successful efforts to make the WB prioritise climate change, the environment, renewable energy, gender equality, governance, fragile and conflict situations, disaster risk management and domestic resource mobilization. On gender equality, we welcome the draft WB's Gender Strategy 2024 – 2030: Accelerate Gender Equality for a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Future.

The Gender strategy will come into force in a time where the anti-gender movement's global influence is growing and gaining momentum in countries like United States, Uganda, Spain, and Hungary, and thereby also in decision making bodies in multilateral organisations like the UN and EU. This movement is diverse, well-funded, and organized and mobilizes support for legislation that opposes and criminalizes areas within sexual and reproductive health and rights. The anti-gender movement is growing against the backdrop of a divisive geopolitical climate in terms of the realization of human rights, as currently exemplified by the fact that 1/3 of the world's LGBT+ population now live in states that criminalize same sex relations. In recent years, we have experienced a growing anti-rights/gender movement at the multilateral level, exemplified by an informal coalition of UN Member States that was convened during the Trump administration, and which promoted the 'Geneva Consensus Declaration' which posited support for "traditional family values" and opposed SRHR. This geopolitical backdrop underscores the importance of multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, ensuring strong leadership and prioritization of gender equality and human rights within its mandate, strategy and portfolio of programming and financing.

On top of that, the current poly-crisis in the world which are identified both in the Danish Organisation Strategy and by the WB, have disproportionate negative impacts on the most structurally excluded groups, including women, girls, sexual and gender minorities, and

other marginalized groups. Gender equality is therefore globally under pressure despite evidence paradoxically showing that women's participation in the economy and in decision making improves sustainability and resilience as well as economic growth, productivity, and poverty reduction.

Therefore, it will be important to hold the WB accountable in comprehensively implementing the gender strategy, as it will both benefit the WB's development purpose and the rights of structurally excluded groups.

We regret to see that gender is not a stand-alone priority in the draft organisation strategy as it was during the former period, even though it is suggested that it will be a mainstreamed area of attention for the organization. However, it takes significant resources to mainstream gender comprehensively within an organization and to ensure there is an adequate internal awareness, political buy-in and response to related issues.

Given this, The Danish Family Planning Association recommends that gender equality continues to be a stand-alone priority in the organization to ensure that resources continue to be invested in promoting gender equality. This will allow Denmark together with the Nordic Baltic Constituency to follow up on the implementation of the gender strategy and making sure that WB in accordance with its gender strategy impacts gender equality positively. With its gender focus and expertise Denmark can, in its engagement with the WB, play an important role in galvanising likeminded actors in overseeing the gender strategy, from ambition in to practice. Denmark can also contribute to this process through its representation in steering committees of trust funds and financial intermediary funds, including governing bodies of WB's large climate facilities. This would also be in line with the findings of the MFA's own evaluation of the Danish support to gender equality in Danish development cooperation 2014-2021 where it is encouraged to focus on gender equality in international work on climate change and green transitioning.