

REIMAGINING POWER STRUCTURES

The potential of feminist foreign policy



PROGRAMME

9:00 am	Registration	
9:30 am	Welcome	Katinka In 't Zandt, Vice-Chair ARGO-CCGD
9:40 am	Opening remarks	Caroline Gennez, Minister of Development Cooperation and of Major Cities
10:00 am	Keynote Speech - International solidarity and the strengthening of feminist movements	Faye Macheke, Executive Director, AWID
10:55 am	Coffee break	
11:15 am	Expert Panel - Feminist foreign policy: challenges and opportunities	Prof. Toni Hastrup, Chair in Global Politics, Manchester University Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET Moderation: Alessandra Croppi, Gender Policy Advisor, Oxfam EU Advocacy Office as CONCORD's representative
12:15 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Parallel sessions	
	Challenges and Opportunities of Working Across Different Cultures on Healthcare and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights <i>Workshop – no interpretation</i>	
	Feminist alliances and funding - addressing power imbalances from local to global <i>Workshop – no interpretation</i>	
	Towards a feminist climate policy to tackle global climate change <i>Panel discussions</i>	
4:00 pm	Plenary session: Policy recommendations identified during the parallel sessions	
4:30 pm	Closing remarks	Marie-Colline Leroy, State Secretary for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity
4:50 pm	Closure	Roméo Matsas, Chair ARGO-CCGD

Interpretation will be available in French, Dutch, and English, if not it is indicated in the program.

Parallel sessions description

Challenges and Opportunities of Working Across Different Cultures on Healthcare and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Efforts to enhance global healthcare, sexual and reproductive health, and rights face numerous challenges. Unequal power dynamics persist. The consequences of colonization and the ongoing influence of Western policies on populations in the Global South often lead to programs and policies being perceived as a form of neo-colonialism. Debates on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are often entangled in these discussions. Programs addressing family planning, abortion, gender-based violence, or LGBTQI+ rights stir lively debates, and create dilemmas when considering local (or religious) cultures. Stakeholders and partners work towards accessible reproductive healthcare amid growing polarization and contestation on gender and women's rights. They implement participatory projects, adopting intercultural and intersectional approaches to align with decisions made by local communities and revalue indigenous practices and customs.

This interactive workshop aims to engage participants in a focused discussion, re-examining various cultural perspectives and power relations in international cooperation on healthcare and SRHR. Our goal is to build bridges between feminist movements, Belgian foreign policy, and SRHR issues, offering recommendations for implementation.

The workshop will start with presentations from:

- **Tim Roosen**, International health policy expert - health desk of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation (DGD).
- **Memory Kachambwa**, Executive Director **FEMNET** (The African Women's Development and Communications Network), Chair of the SheDecides Guiding Group, pan-African feminist, and gender and women's rights activist.
- **Michelle De Baene**, Policy Advisor, **FOS ngo** (socialist solidarity organization in Flanders).
- **Marianne Nguena**, Coordinator of the Network of Concerted Strategies for Female Genital Mutilation in Brussels and Wallonia, Coordinator of Communities of Practice on Female Genital Mutilation, **GAMS Belgium** (Group for the Abolition of Sexual Mutilation).
- **Moderation: Sara Salarkiya**, International Policy Advisor, **Sensoa** Flemish expert center for sexual health.

After the presentations, small group discussions will enable participants to share their experiences and explore innovative solutions to strengthen feminist action in foreign policy and international solidarity on healthcare and sexual and reproductive rights.

Language: English for presentations and French and English for subgroup exchanges/discussions. No interpretation.

The workshop is organized by GAMS Belgium, FOS, SENSOA, and 11.11.11.

Feminist alliances and funding- addressing power imbalances from local to global

Feminist activism and women's rights organisations have the biggest impact when it comes to moving the needle on gender equality. Yet, feminist organisations, including LGBTQIA+ movements, are facing severe underfunding. Adequate funding plays a pivotal role in executing transformative programs that uplift women and gender minorities globally. Equally important are feminist alliances—forged not only among feminist movements and organizations but also with broader social movements—to strengthen collective voice and amplify impact. The adoption of a feminist foreign policy must include a robust strategy to strengthen both feminist funding and alliances.

This workshop offers a platform for in depth conversations around feminist funding and alliances. It will begin by the sharing of experiences from:

- **Léa Thuillier and Aurore Pereira, from CARE France**, will delve into the management of the FSOF (France's support fund for feminist organizations) and CARE France's advocacy for feminist funding and alliances.
- **Faye Macheke, AWID's Executive Director**, will talk about AWID's coordination, space convening and engagement across movements.
- **Laura Piazza, from Outright International**, will highlight Outright International's experience with funding global programmes, innovative advocacy and alliance-building between feminist funds, organizations, and LGBTQIA+ movements.

Participants will then engage in discussion tables to delve deeper into the realms of feminist funding and alliances, working collaboratively to identify policy recommendations.

Language: English. No interpretation.

The workshop is organized by çavaria, CNCD-11.11.11 and Oxfam Belgium.

Towards a feminist climate policy to tackle global climate change

The urgency of the climate crisis is undeniable. Climate change represents a major threat to progress in gender equality, human rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This global challenge disproportionately affects women and marginalized communities, who, due to their socioeconomic status, often find themselves on the frontline, bearing the brunt of climate change impacts.

Despite these challenges, women worldwide have demonstrated exceptional resilience and adaptability. Throughout history, they have played a pivotal role in disaster prevention and response efforts. It is crucial that we lend our support to these efforts. A feminist approach to climate policy is paramount, encompassing a strategic commitment to fund initiatives that bridge feminism and climate justice. This approach also emphasizes the importance of ensuring the active participation of those who are most affected by climate change.

This parallel session aims to foster meaningful dialogue through successive panel discussions. We will provide a platform for **representatives from women's rights organizations in the Global South**, as well as **Belgian institutions** actively engaged in climate and development issues, including the cabinet of the Minister of Development Cooperation, and **various NGOs**. This collaborative exchange will allow for a diverse range of perspectives, enabling us to explore, contrast, and analyze views on the intersection of climate policy and feminism.

Language: French and Dutch. Interpretation will be available in French, Dutch, and English.

The parallel session is organized by Le Monde selon les femmes, Vrouwenraad, and CIP asbl with the support of Oxfam Belgium and the Secretariat of the Belgian Advisory Council on Gender and Development

The conference is organised by



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