

SSNC Gender Policy

in the global development cooperation¹

1. GENDER POLICY

SSNC's conviction is that the vision and objectives of the association's global programmes are dependent on a gender perspective being integrated into the programme activities. Promoting gender equality is a goal for the rights-based approach that characterises the work of the SSNC and also as a means to achieve the vision.

SSNC's starting point in its work is that:

- Men's and women's equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities, as well as men's and women's equal influence and equal sharing of a gainful living, shall be promoted and protected in SSNC's global cooperation. SSNC stands up for gender justice in any society and will accept no excuses for gender based violence.
- The promotion of gender equality is crucial for eradicating poverty in all its forms, and SSNC will promote and implement, within its mandate, the integration of gender perspectives in all relevant areas of work. The integration of gender perspectives is considered an opportunity for achieving SSNC's overall objectives with respect to environment and development, including to strive for respect of human rights and to promote democracy.
- In cooperation with its international partners, SSNC will promote a dialogue on the linkages between sustainable resource management and gender equality to find out how women and men, boys and girls are affected by environmental degradation and how men and women affect eco-systems and natural resources.
- SSNC declares the integration of gender perspective and gender mainstreaming in the international development cooperation as a long term commitment. SSNC believes that sustainable development policies and practices gain much from involving women and men alike.

SSNC recognises the importance of international declarations on women's rights and subscribes to the following:

- SSNC advocates a ranking where international women's rights declarations are considered just as important as other human rights declarations, implying that violations of women's rights are not excused.
- SSNC stands up for the international declarations as CEDAW² adopted 18 December 1979 and Beijing Declaration and Platform of Actions from the UN's Fourth Women's Conference in Beijing 1995, as well as the goals for improvement of women's rights as they are stated in the Millennium Development Goals.

¹ Adopted by the board of SSNC, September 16-17, 2011.

² UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

- SSNC highlights in particular the 11th of the twelve Critical Areas of Concern in the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan, as it concerns women and environment:

“Women and men are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.... Awareness of resource depletion, the degradation of natural systems and the dangers of polluting substances have increased markedly in the past decade. These worsening conditions are destroying fragile ecosystems and displacing communities, especially women, from productive activities and are an increasing threat to a safe and healthy environment. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated...” (K §246)

- SSNC supports the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and highlights article 22, paragraph 2:

“States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination”.

- SSNC supports the Swedish government in its “Policy for gender equality and the rights and role of women in Sweden’s international development cooperation 2010–2015”³ and shares the following point of departure:

“Gender equality is achieved when women and men, and girls and boys, have equal rights, life prospects and opportunities, and the power to shape their own lives and contribute to society. Equality between the sexes is a question of a fair and equitable distribution of power, influence and resources in everyday life and in society as a whole. A gender-equal society safeguards and makes use of every individual’s experience, skills and competence.”

This policy is implemented by the head of the SSNC office.

³ Policy for Gender Equality and the Rights and role of Women in Sweden’s International Development Cooperation 2010–2015 <http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/15/22/97/a962c4c8.pdf> , page 8.