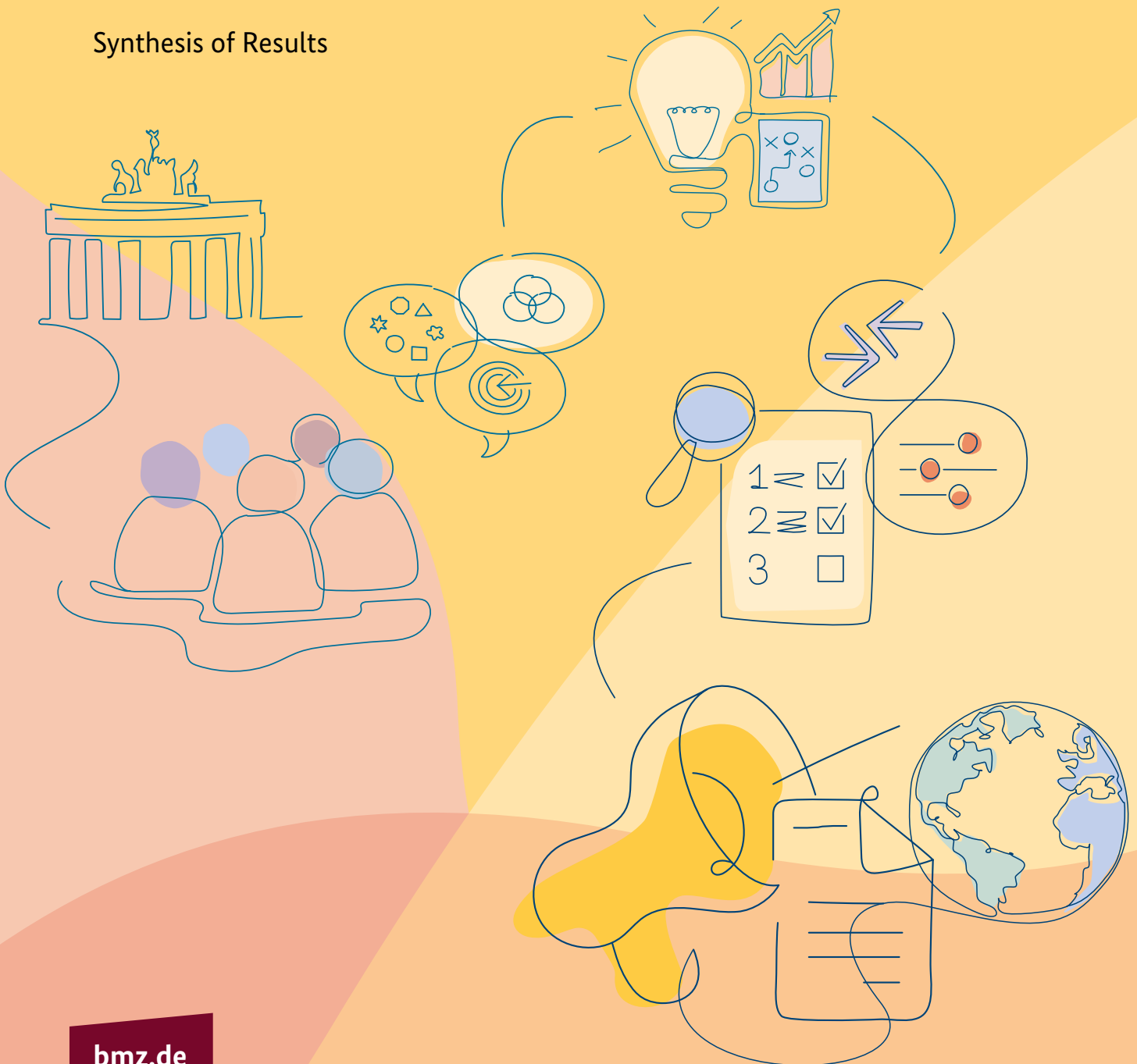




# Consultation process on the Third Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality (2023-2027)

Synthesis of Results



# Content

Introduction & Methodological Note	2
Overarching Considerations	7
Action Area 1: RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND REPRESENTATION – strengthening the “three Rs” in German development cooperation	8
Action Area 2: A NEW WAY OF THINKING – Anchoring a feminist approach across the BMZ portfolio, targeted promotion of gender equality	10
Action Area 3: MULTILATERAL COOPERATION – Building international alliances	12
Action Area 4: LEADING BY EXAMPLE – An institution fit to deliver	13
MEASURING SUCCESS – Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting	14

# Introduction & Methodological Note

In March 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched its strategy for a feminist development policy<sup>1</sup>. The strategy establishes feminist development policy as a guiding principle of German development cooperation, formulates an overarching vision and defines action areas and goals. It is based on an inclusive and diverse consultation process that took place between February and September 2022 and involved over 400 stakeholders from feminist civil society and academia from the Global South and North as well as multilateral and implementing organisations. The kick-off event in September 2022 reached over 2000 people virtually.

To translate the goals of the strategy into an implementation plan, BMZ developed a Third Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality (2023–2027) (BMZ GAP), operationalising the strategy through concrete targets, measures, and indicators<sup>2</sup>. The aim is to strengthen transparency and accountability through a comprehensive monitoring and reporting system, capturing first results of the feminist development policy. From March 2023 to June 2023, the BMZ conducted a second consultation process for the development of the third BMZ GAP. Four consultations took place with a total of around 100 participants: one with the BMZ and implementing organisations, another one with feminist civil society from Germany, followed by one with feminist civil society from the Global South, and finally, with development research institutions and academia. Participants had the opportunity to provide inputs on the implementation of the strategy's key principles and action areas, monitoring and evaluation of the feminist development policy, and the future cooperation between BMZ, civil society, and academia. The following sections synthesise the results of this consultation process. An overview of the key aspects is provided in the infographic on the following page.

---

<sup>1</sup> The strategy was launched jointly with the Feminist Foreign Policy guidelines of the Federal Foreign Office.

<sup>2</sup> BMZ's first Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality (in short: first BMZ GAP) was adopted in 2009 and set out goals until 2012. The second BMZ GAP was implemented from 2016 to 2020.

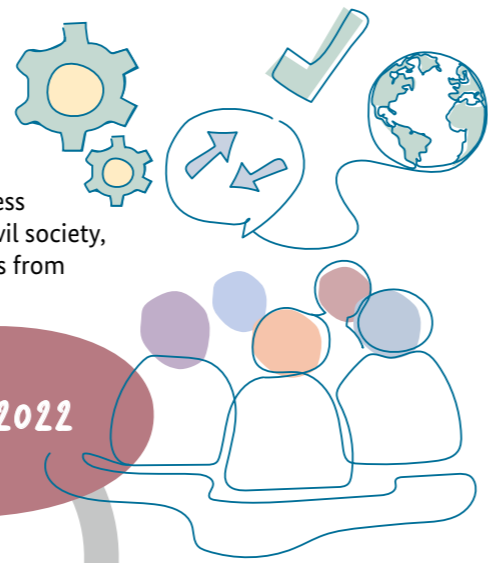
# The Feminist Development Policy Journey

## CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Inclusive and diverse consultation process with more than 400 participants from civil society, science and implementing organizations from the Global South and North.

**BEGINNING 2022**

02-09/2022

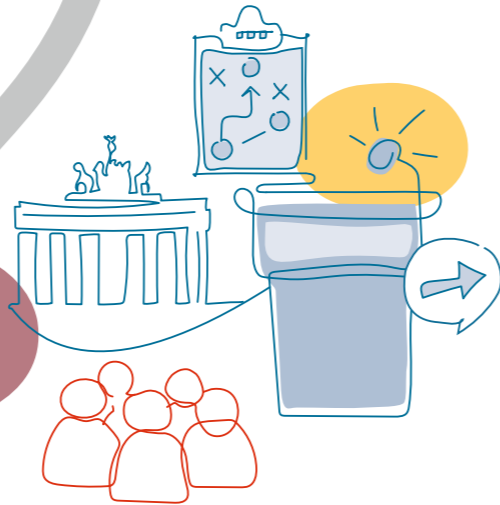


## ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## HIGH LEVEL EVENT IN BERLIN WITH FEDERAL MINISTER SVENJA SCHULZE AND CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTATION

More than 100 guests in Berlin and over 2000 virtual participants were able to follow the launch event as well as the announcement of the targets for the BMZ portfolio on gender equality.

27/09/2022



10/2022-03/2023

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGY



03/2023

## JOINT PUBLICATION

of the strategy for the feminist development policy and the guidelines for feminist foreign policy.



## CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENDER ACTION PLAN

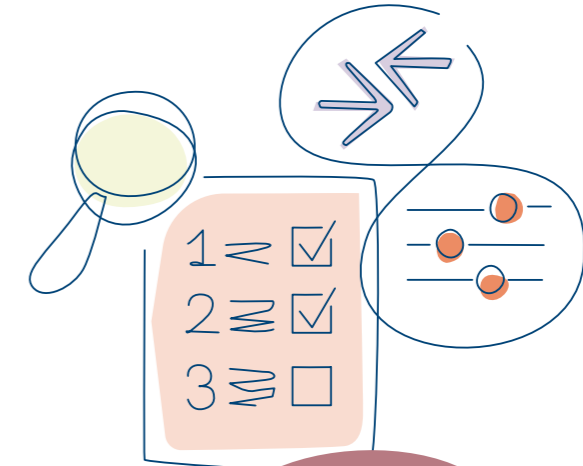
Second inclusive and diverse consultation process with participants from civil society, science, ministries and implementing organizations with more than 100 experts from the Global South and North.

03-09/2023



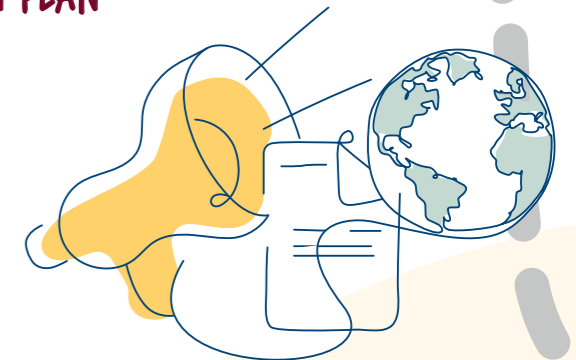
03-11/2023

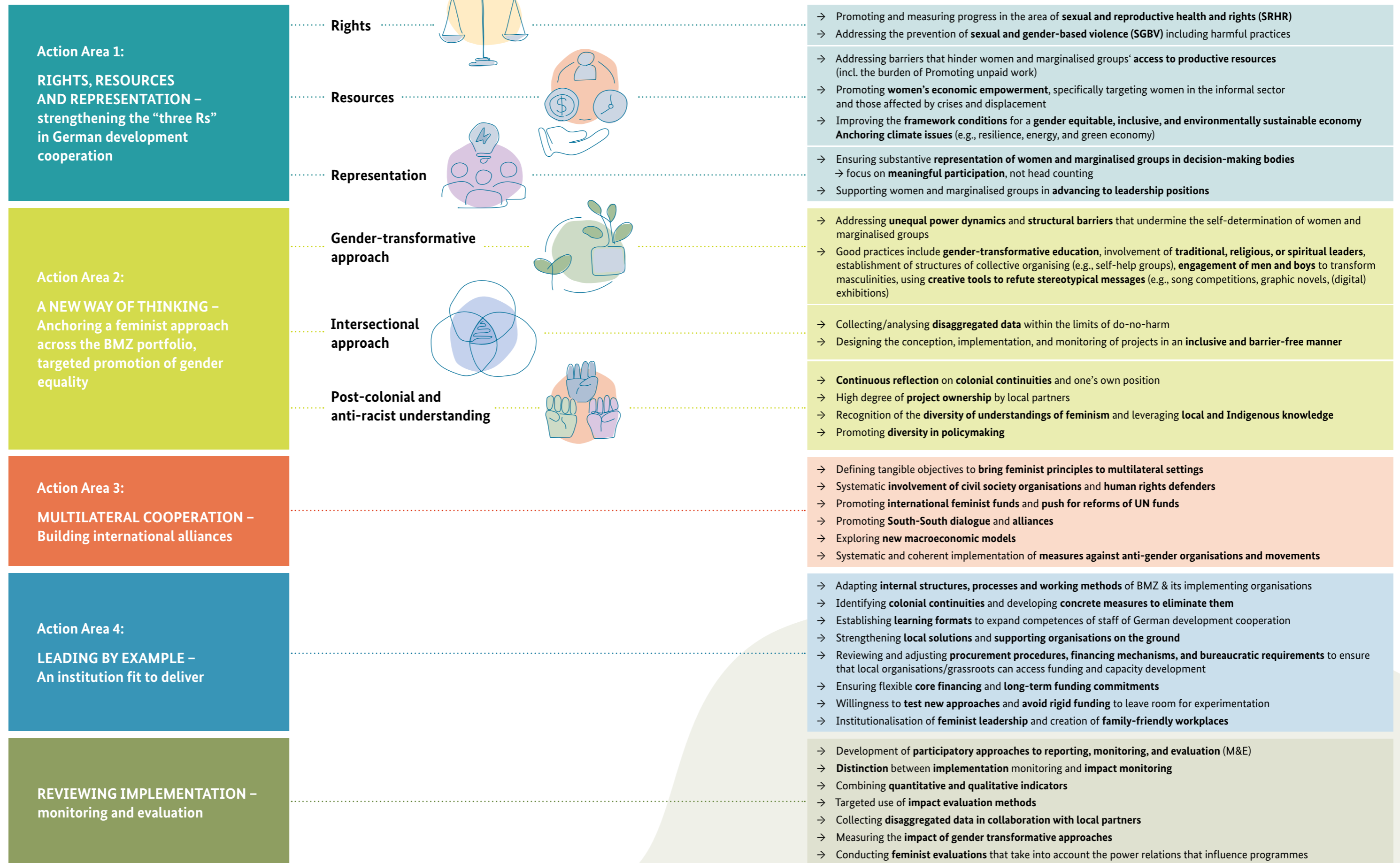
## DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENDER ACTION PLAN



12/2023

## THIRD DEVELOPMENT POLICY ACTION PLAN ON GENDER EQUALITY (2023-2027)





## Overarching Considerations

Participants of the consultation process emphasise that the **operationalisation** of the strategy of the feminist development policy will be decisive for its results. For this reason, the BMZ GAP should define **ambitious targets** and **corresponding indicators** to measure its implementation and impact. To avoid misunderstandings, civil society emphasises that the BMZ GAP should use **clear and simple language**, clearly define concepts and be accessible in different languages.

In addition, participants reiterate the importance of **government coherence across ministries**. BMZ should align its measures, tools, and definitions of key terms with other ministries, including the German Federal Foreign Office (AA). This should – according to civil society – also apply to the gender marker system of BMZ and AA which currently differ from each other.<sup>3</sup> To avoid inconsistencies and develop coherent approaches, civil society recommends that BMZ seeks regular exchange with other ministries.

Furthermore, participants of the consultation process stress the need to “walk the talk” and **operationalise the core elements defined in the strategy for the feminist development policy**. This should also apply to the consideration of marginalised groups. So far, the strategy emphasises the need to target marginalised groups but does not specify who this refers to, and how this should be done and tracked. While 93 % of newly committed project funding should be allocated to projects and programmes that advance gender equality, civil society regrets that there is no such indicator for reaching marginalised groups.<sup>4</sup> Against this background, civil

society recommends that BMZ formulates concrete targets to reach marginalised groups and uses the newly introduced **disability inclusion marker** to track the share of projects reaching persons with disabilities.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, civil society stresses the need to concretise the implementation of **human-rights-based and intersectional approaches**, especially with regards to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as capacity development within BMZ and its implementing organisations. In addition, development research institutions suggest **strengthening the do-no-harm principle** in the BMZ GAP and formulating an indicator to track its implementation.

Moreover, to successfully implement the feminist development policy and realise its core elements, participants of the consultation process re-emphasise the need for **institutional and methodological change** within German development cooperation. This includes, among other things, the expansion of intersectional gender analyses and the transformation of learning processes.

3 The BMZ gender marker guidelines differ from those of the Federal Foreign Office (AA), with the latter requiring a gender-sensitive approach for GE1 projects and a gender-transformative approach for GE2 projects, which is not in line with the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker System.

4 Civil society perceives a need for clarification on whether this target also applies to projects implemented by civil society.

5 The GIZ tracked the share of projects that integrated the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a primary or secondary objective in 2021 and found that only 10% of GIZ projects considered disability inclusion. In the view of civil society, this percentage should be at least doubled and reflected in an indicator.

## Action Area 1

# RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND REPRESENTATION – Strengthening the “3 Rs” in German development cooperation

The feminist development policy strives to promote the 3R – rights, resources, and representation – of women and marginalised groups. Drawing on the results of the consultation process with civil society, the BMZ GAP should particularly operationalise and monitor the following objectives and sub-themes.

### Rights

As outlined in the feminist development strategy, BMZ works with partner governments to overcome discriminatory laws and social norms, strengthen the rights of women and marginalised groups, and improve their access to justice. In the consultation process on the BMZ GAP, measuring progress in the area of **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** was considered particularly important, as SRHR plays a fundamental role in the health and well-being of women and marginalised groups and represents an important component of many other feminist development policy goals such as educational attainment or economic participation. From a thematic perspective, civil society recommends improving access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services that goes beyond family planning to include, inter alia, access to safe abortions and HPV vaccination preventing cervical cancer. Additionally, civil society representatives stress that particular attention should be paid to addressing multiple discriminations in SRHR, especially faced by persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Another issue that civil society representatives believe should be explicitly addressed in the BMZ GAP is the prevention of **sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**. Specific measures proposed

include strengthening legal protection, training and sensitising specialised personnel including the police and judiciary, promoting prevention initiatives in educational institutions, supporting the establishment of protection facilities, and enabling quality counselling services. In addition, civil society stressed that prevention and support measures should be based on a trauma-sensitive and survivor-centred approach, whereby those affected are actively involved in the design of the interventions.

Furthermore, civil society emphasises the importance of incorporating the **transformation of harmful practices** such as female genital mutilation or forced marriage into the BMZ GAP. Concrete actions may include advocating for legal bans of these practices, strengthening consistent enforcement of legal provisions, and transforming social norms that uphold these practices.

### Resources

As indicated in the strategy of the feminist development policy, German development cooperation aims to improve access to and control over resources for women and marginalised groups in partner countries. In the consultation process for the BMZ GAP, civil society representatives highlighted the importance of promoting access to health services and nutritious food, quality education, and decent work. In this context, civil society emphasised the need to **address barriers that hinder women and marginalised groups’ access to productive resources**. These include, among others, the burden of unpaid (care) work, limited mobility and traditional gender roles that confine women and marginalised groups to the domestic sphere.

Tangible measures that could be included in the BMZ GAP to overcome these obstacles may include efforts to recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work (e.g., affordable (child)care facilities and inclusive social protection schemes), initiatives to promote safe transportation systems, and projects that aim to change entrenched social norms (see section 3 for more information on gender-transformative approaches).

Concerning projects for **women's economic empowerment**, civil society recommends using comprehensive approaches that do not exclusively focus on women owning (formal) enterprises or working in specific sectors such as agriculture. Rather, empowerment programmes should recognise the diversity of realities and take into account women and marginalised groups working in the informal sector as well as those who have not yet taken up paid work or social protection services. Additionally, civil society representatives recommend promoting the economic empowerment of women and marginalised groups affected by crises and displacement.

Furthermore, German development cooperation should work towards **improving the framework conditions for a gender-equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economy**. This includes, among other things, analysing the differential impacts of existing tax, trade and energy policies on women and marginalised groups and creating mechanisms to prevent exploitation in supply chains. In addition, civil society emphasises the importance of improving the protection of migrant women, combat modern slavery, and improve their access to economic opportunities. Moreover, civil society stresses the need to ensure that climate activists and organisations of Indigenous Peoples and local communities fighting for gender-responsive climate legislation have access to financial resources and networks.

Beyond these aspects, civil society expressed the desire for clarification regarding the **anchoring of climate issues** (e.g., resilience, energy, and green economy) within the feminist development policy and the consideration of feminist approaches in a Just Transition.

## Representation

According to the strategy for the feminist development policy, BMZ aims to strengthen the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and marginalised groups and their role in key social, political, and economic decision-making processes at all levels. In the consultation process for the BMZ GAP, civil society reiterated the importance of ensuring **substantive representation of women and marginalised groups in relevant decision-making bodies**. However, civil society underlines that BMZ should go beyond “head counting” and focus on meaningful participation. This includes considerations of who is involved and listened to, whether all relevant interests are represented, how marginalised groups are addressed, and how participation is organised.

Furthermore, civil society re-emphasises the need to **support women and marginalised groups in advancing to leadership positions**. Having women in positions of power is considered particularly important as they serve as role model and inspire others to raise their voices. To achieve this aim, German development cooperation could invest in capacity development and support the creation of conducive environments that enable women and marginalised groups to rise to decision-making positions and amplify their voices.



## Action Area 2

# A NEW WAY OF THINKING – Anchoring a feminist approach across the BMZ portfolio, targeted promotion of gender equality

The strategy of the feminist development policy outlines a number of core principles guiding the feminist development policy. In the consultation process for the BMZ GAP, civil society representatives shared expectations and good practices that German development cooperation could learn from.

### Gender-transformative approach

One of the core principles set out in the strategy of the feminist development policy is the promotion of **gender-transformative approaches**. Rather than addressing the symptoms of gender inequalities, the feminist development policy seeks to address its root causes, including discriminatory social norms, laws, practices, and structures. During the consultation process for the third BMZ GAP, civil society representatives reiterated the need to address unequal power dynamics and structural barriers that undermine the self-determination of women and marginalised groups. In this context, they reemphasised the importance of taking women's heterogeneity into account when developing, implementing, and monitoring gender-transformative approaches.

An important means to transform discriminatory social norms and harmful practices, highlighted by civil society, is **gender-transformative education**. Educational institutions, including schools and universities, should challenge gender stereotypes, empower individuals to question power inequalities and promote inclusive environments. To achieve this aim, projects should promote holistic approaches that comprehensively adjust curricula and involve all relevant stakeholders. According

to civil society, this requires among others, training for educational staff to overcome biases and educational conversations with parents. German development cooperation could strengthen these approaches and support the development of gender-transformative education guidelines.

Another good practice to challenge and overcome detrimental social norms and practices pertains to the **involvement of traditional, religious, or spiritual leaders**. They can play a pivotal role in advocating for change and reshaping attitudes and behaviours within their communities. Against this background, representatives of civil society organisations recommend promoting projects aimed at sensitising community leaders and involving them as facilitators and multipliers of gender-transformative initiatives.

Another good practice to challenge entrenched gender norms that was highlighted during the consultation process is the **establishment of structures of collective organising**, such as self-help groups, that allow women and marginalised groups to collectively develop and expand their agency. Structures of collective organising foster solidarity among women and marginalised groups and serve as a platform for mutual support, knowledge sharing, and resource pooling. Through these endeavours, members of these collectives can build confidence, acquire new skills, advocate for their rights, and make socio-economic progress.

Another good practice, highlighted by civil society, concerns the engagement of men and boys **to transform gender norms and expectations**

**regarding masculinities.** Men and boys should be sensitised for gender-related issues that adversely affect women and marginalised groups, including gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the unequal distribution of care work. In addition, men and boys should become aware of the negative impact that gender inequalities have on their own well-being. Against this background, the feminist development policy should promote projects that explicitly target men to transform notions of masculinity and actively involve them as allies and change agents in the fight against gender inequalities and the promotion of feminist approaches.

Finally, across the above-mentioned approaches, civil society representatives recommend **using creative tools to refute stereotypical messages.** These may include, among others, graphic novels, murals in public spaces, rap or other song competitions, film or theatre projects, and (digital) exhibitions.

## Intersectional approach

Another core principle of the feminist development policy is the adoption of **intersectional approaches.** In this context, civil society stressed that there is “no generic woman” and that different social identities are intertwined and should not be seen as separate. It should be recognised that interlocking social identities, given the interaction between different systems of power, give rise to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that severely hinder people’s equal participation in different spheres of society. To better understand the distinct challenges and needs faced by different people, **disaggregated data** should be collected and analysed within the limits of the do-no-harm principle. In this context, the use of innovative data sources including big data should also be considered. The results of this analysis can help incorporating multiple gender lenses and design targeted interventions.

In addition, an intersectional approach requires that the conception, implementation, and monitoring of projects is designed in an inclusive and a barrier-free manner to avoid the automatic exclusion of significant parts of the population.

## Post-colonial and anti-racist approach

Another core principle of the feminist development policy is the pursuit of a **post-colonial and anti-racist approach** starting with the recognition of colonial continuities and the persistence of racist thinking in German development cooperation. According to representatives of civil society, a post-colonial approach involves **continuous reflection** on colonial continuities and one’s own position in development cooperation.<sup>6</sup> Employees of BMZ and its implementing organisations should participate in trainings on post-colonialism and become sensitised to unequal power structures. Participating in learning formats on post-colonialism should also be integrated in the onboarding process of new colleagues. In addition, BMZ should consider developing working groups on the integration of post-colonialism in day-to-day activities such as communications, which should also contain a transparent critical reflection of BMZ’s own role.

Moreover, adopting a post-colonial approach requires that a high degree of **project ownership** be transferred to partners of German development cooperation. According to civil society representatives, this should be the case throughout the project cycle and in relation to staffing decisions. Project partners in the Global South should be involved in developing project proposals, conducting context analyses, as well as selecting staff for project implementation and monitoring project results. In addition, civil society emphasises the importance of building long-term partnerships between German organisations and partners in project countries.

Further important success factors for realising a post-colonial approach in development cooperation

<sup>6</sup> In this context, civil society also suggests promoting research on the interconnectedness between colonialism and homophobia.

are the **recognition of the diversity of understandings of feminism** and **leveraging local and Indigenous knowledge**. Acknowledging that feminism has manifested in different ways across cultural contexts, communities should be encouraged to define and follow their own pathways to gender equality and promote context-specific solutions. In doing so, a post-colonial perspective fosters a collaborative development process that empowers the voices and agency of marginalised populations and enables a more equitable and sustainable path forward.

Another good practice identified by representatives of civil society during the consultation process concerns the **promotion of diversity in policy-making**. Women and marginalised groups should be supported in gaining access to and advancing to higher positions in international development cooperation. In particular, German development cooperation should support women and marginalised groups from the Global South to access international networks and reach decision-making positions in international cooperation.

## Action Area 3

# MULTILATERAL COOPERATION – Building international alliances

To strengthen feminist policies and agendas, the strategy of the feminist development policy envisages forging robust alliances and partnerships at the international and global level. Drawing on the consultation process with civil society, the following aspects should be integrated into the BMZ GAP.

First, German development cooperation should define tangible objectives to **bring feminist principles to multilateral settings**. Special attention should be paid to the realisation of a power-critical approach and the promotion of gender mainstreaming in multilateral cooperation. A concrete example of shifting power dynamics in multilateral spaces is the **systematic involvement of civil society organisations** and **human rights defenders** (particularly those fighting for the rights of marginalised groups such as LGBTIQ+). To pursue this goal, German development cooperation could invite civil society actors based in the Global South to participate in conferences and to share their expertise, fund their participation in international exchange formats, and offer further assistance (e.g., with regard to visa procedures) if needed. In addition, German development cooperation could challenge established

exchange formats and aim for co-creation rather than mere consultation, questioning the existing power distribution in terms of who sets agendas and who decides on how to convene. Finally, BMZ could promote access of human rights defenders and civil society organisations to established international networks and work to bridge silos.

To further strengthen the voices and influence of women and marginalised groups, civil society emphasises that BMZ could **promote international feminist funds** and **push for reforms of UN funds**, which have remained inaccessible to many organisations led by women and marginalised groups. According to civil society representatives, German development cooperation should increasingly support feminist funds to expand the volume and number of grants awarded to organisations of women and marginalised groups, specifically in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Furthermore, civil society suggests that BMZ could encourage UN funds such as the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund to modify their funding criteria. This might entail the elimination of the minimum funding threshold, permitting applications in numerous

languages, and facilitating access to funding for organisations that have not previously worked with the UN. Furthermore, traditional objectives such as risk minimisation and short-term cost-effectiveness should be re-evaluated in order to reach structurally excluded actors.

Additionally, representatives of civil society emphasise the importance of promoting **South to South dialogue and alliances** to identify alternative approaches to social, economic, and political challenges. German development cooperation could financially support these networks and invest in capacity development. At the same time, BMZ could encourage the consideration of more equitable approaches to international macroeconomic policy at the international level and advocate for exploring **new macroeconomic models** such as the donut economy.

Finally, civil society representatives expressed their concern about well-financed **anti-gender organisations and movements** and call for systematic and coherent implementation of measures against the forces that are threatening the rights of women and marginalised groups. German development cooperation should build strong alliances to fight these regressive forces, operationalise this goal in the BMZ GAP, and monitor its implementation. Among others, German Development Cooperation should provide institutional funding schemes with flexible timeframes to allow feminist alliances of different organisations and social groups to develop and gain strength.

## Action Area 4

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE – An institution fit to deliver

As outlined in the strategy, the feminist development policy can only be successfully implemented if the **internal structures, processes and working methods** of BMZ and its implementing organisations are adapted, and their staff trained accordingly. Drawing on the consultation process, the following aspects were considered particularly relevant to be operationalised in the BMZ GAP.

First, BMZ and its implementing organisations should **understand and identify colonial continuities and develop concrete measures to eliminate them**. In doing so, civil society re-emphasises the importance of reflecting on asymmetric power dynamics and one's own position in international cooperation, as described in the application of post-colonial approaches in Chapter 2.

Second, staff of German development cooperation should participate in **learning formats to expand their competences** on gender equality and the inclusion of marginalised groups. Particular attention should be drawn to competences relevant for increasing the share of projects with a gender equality objective (GG1 and GG2) in all sectors and implementing the strategy's core principles (e.g., using gender-transformative, intersectional, and post-colonial approaches).

Moreover, throughout the consultation process for the BMZ GAP, civil society representatives underscored the necessity of **strengthening local solutions and supporting organisations on the ground** to effectively shift discriminatory social norms and harmful practices. In this pursuit, civil society

stressed the need to **review and adjust procurement procedures, financing mechanisms, and bureaucratic requirements** of German development cooperation to ensure that local organisations and grassroots can access funding and capacity development. According to civil society representatives, strengthening feminist organisations will require **flexible core financing and long-term funding commitments**. German development cooperation should therefore identify mechanisms to directly support and collaborate with feminist organisations and movements on the ground. These might include, among others, youth-led networks and activists, women's rights organisations, women-led trade unions and cooperatives as well as organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). Furthermore, German development cooperation should prioritise projects using participatory and community

steered approaches that systematically involve target groups, recognising that they know best what is needed in their specific context. In doing so, BMZ and its implementing organisations should also be **willing to pilot new approaches** and avoid rigid funding schemes that leave no room for experimentation. Also, the participants acknowledged the challenge of this under changing governments.

Moreover, civil society emphasised that BMZ and its implementing organisations should institutionalise **feminist leadership**, stressing that feminist development policy is not about “fixing women but fixing problems”. Concrete measures could include efforts to create a more **family-friendly workplace**, especially with regard to leadership positions at BMZ and its implementing organisations.

## Measuring Success

### Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

According to the strategy of the feminist development policy, the BMZ GAP will include a monitoring system to ensure transparency in the implementation of the feminist development policy and safeguard accountability, specifically towards project partners in the Global South and civil society actors at national and international level.

A reoccurring aspect during the consultation process with civil society and development research institutions was the **development of participatory approaches for reporting, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E)**. Local partners (including civil society and marginalised groups) should be directly involved in the design of M&E tools, data collection, and reporting as well as reflection on results (for more information, see the box below) in line with the principle “nothing about us without us.” To minimise the workload of all parties involved in measuring

progress, the indicators used in the BMZ GAP, should be coherent with indicator systems of other organisations or monitoring systems and BMZ should consider publishing the data via an open data portal for reasons of transparency and wider use of the information. While double reporting should be avoided by BMZ, civil society suggests using additional external reporting during the midterm review conducted by an independent organisation to increase credibility. Furthermore, participants highlighted the need to adapt the current formats of the project progress reports, guidance notes and gender analyses in order to improve data collection, enable the potential of gender-transformative approaches and systematically report on the implementation of the core elements of the feminist development policy.

In the consultation with development research institutions, participants highlighted the **distinction between implementation monitoring and impact monitoring and suggest balancing the two** in the BMZ GAP. While monitoring results and intended impact is crucial to show the effects of the feminist development policy, strengthening the implementation monitoring component could help break down the steps required to achieve a specific target and possibly identify why it has not or only partially been achieved. For example, the indicator measuring the number of organisations directly supported by German development cooperation that work for gender equality, LGBTIQ+ people, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalised groups does not specify how this should be done and hence does not provide guidance on how this could be achieved (e.g., through a new direct funding scheme, encouragement of NGOs to apply for funding, etc.). Against this backdrop, development research institutions recommend integrating indicators for monitoring implementation alongside indicators measuring impact in order to define concrete actions, as intended for a BMZ GAP.

Furthermore, participants of the consultation process recommended **combining quantitative and qualitative indicators** to adequately measure progress in the BMZ GAP. They argue that qualitative indicators can provide additional information to quantitative data to obtain a more comprehensive picture and prevent monitoring from becoming a pure “tick box exercise”. While quantitative indicators give a clear measure of progress and are numerically comparable, qualitative indicators can provide insight as to how and in what quality change was brought about. For example, a quantitative indicator measuring the share of projects with a gender equality objective (GE1 or GE2) tracks whether the proportion of projects promoting gender equality has increased over time. Yet, the quantitative indicator alone does not provide information on the substantive anchoring and implementation of gender equality. Qualitative indicators are needed to bring people’s experiences into focus, provide

context on how ambitious the quantitative indicator was and ensure that larger proportions are not achieved through over-reporting or relabelling of projects without qualitative changes.

Moreover, development research institutions recommended the **targeted use of impact evaluation methods** to assess the impact of the feminist development policy. These may include participatory approaches such as *storytelling as well as rigorous evaluation methods* that generate reliable evidence of impact to identify the contribution of German development cooperation to observed results and impact. When using storytelling, the time spent by people involved should be considered and possible added value created for them. Rigorous impact evaluations should be used selectively and could be conducted by research institutes. In addition to impact evaluations, participants of the consultation process suggest analysing how German development cooperation is perceived by duty bearers and right holders in partner countries to further increase the transparency and accountability.

Concerning the **data collection** for the monitoring of the BMZ GAP, participants of the consultation process emphasise the need to collect **disaggregated data** in collaboration with local partners. In doing so, however, data collection should never come at the expense of individual security. Hence, the selection of indicators to be collected should be carefully assessed with local partners. In addition, participants of the consultation process stress the need to rely on community-based monitoring whereby impact measurement involves the target groups. In this pursuit, local actors should collect data and have access to capacity development including trainings on intersectional approaches.

Furthermore, participants in the consultation process stress that **measuring the impact of gender transformative approaches** is particularly important but can be challenging. The participants emphasized that local partners as well as target groups should be involved in the assessment of the

results. Development research institutions therefore suggest considering the use of media monitoring to capture language change, taking into account different degrees of press freedom, and using qualitative methods such as narrative interviews or focus groups.

Finally, participants of the consultation process emphasise that German development cooperation

should conduct **feminist evaluations** that take into account the power relations that influence the respective programmes or policies and analyse the structural, social and political contexts in which the evaluations are carried out. In doing so, feminist evaluations promote self-reflection on one's own assumptions and values and therefore have a learning effect with regard to one's own position of power and privilege.

## What could the future collaboration between BMZ and civil society look like in monitoring progress?

Drawing on the results of the consultation for the GAP, **regular exchange formats with civil society** should be established under framework conditions that allow for meaningful participation. By institutionalising regular monitoring exchange, progress, and challenges in specific fields of action should be discussed and space created to jointly reflect on cross-cutting aspects such as the transformation of power structures and the institutionalisation of feminist leadership. In addition, smaller, more direct, and topic-specific formats could be created to discuss clearly delineated issues and existing exchange formats between BMZ and development research institutions expanded to define next steps. When establishing exchange formats,

the focus should be on **meaningful participation and co-creation** – avoiding superficial consultations – based on a high degree of transparency, honest feedback, and a positive error culture. BMZ should be willing to make appropriate adjustments throughout the implementation of the GAP and report back to civil society on whether and how expert knowledge and jointly developed solutions have been used. Furthermore, civil society recommends that BMZ sends out invitations to exchange formats early on, with an agenda and the key issues to be discussed (provided BMZ defines specific discussion points), to allow sufficient time for planning and preparation.

# Imprint

## **PUBLISHED BY THE**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## **EDITED BY THE**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## **AS AT**

May 2024

## **DESIGN AND LAYOUT**

MediaCompany –  
Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH, Bonn

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

MediaCompany –  
Agentur für Kommunikation GmbH, Bonn

## **ADDRESSES OF THE BMZ OFFICES**

→ BMZ Bonn

Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
Tel. +49 228 99535-0  
Fax +49 228 9910535-3500

→ BMZ Berlin

Stresemannstraße 94 (Europahaus)  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
Tel. +49 30 18535-0  
Fax +49 228 9910535-3500

## **CONTACT**

poststelle@bmz.bund.de  
www.bmz.de

## **TEXT BY**

Syspons GmbH  
Prinzenstraße 85d  
10969 Berlin  
Germany  
www.syspons.com  
© Syspons. All rights reserved.

Johanna Schaefer-Kehnert  
Manager  
Tel. +49 151 10 8888 24  
E-Mail: johanna.schaefer-kehner@syspons.com

This publication is issued by the Federal Government as part of its public relations work. The publication is distributed free of charge and is not intended for sale. It may not be used by political parties, election campaigners or election assistants during an election campaign for the purpose of election advertising. This applies to federal, state and local elections as well as elections to the European Parliament.

[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)