

WORK PROGRAMME

2 0 2 4 - 2 0 2 7

OF THE DEVELOPMENT

P O L I C Y

C O M M I T T E E



DEVELOPMENT
POLICY COMMITTEE

The work programme (2024–2027) of the Development Policy Committee (DPC) guides the implementation of the DPC's strategy. It determines the DPC's activities and goals and structures the committee's work according to the operational funds and personnel available during the term.

The work programme is based on three interconnected target areas from the DPC's strategy. Their purpose is to increase the long-term impact and effectiveness of DPC's operations and the significance of development policy.

THE TARGET AREAS ARE:

1. Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work¹;
2. The coherent integration of Finland's development policy in line with international commitments into Finland's foreign relations and the promotion of global sustainable development;
3. The long-term approach, effectiveness and resources of development policy.

This work programme selects the key themes and current topics within these target areas and defines the known processes in which the DPC will participate.

The key themes form a common position, make recommendations and set out the objectives and actions of the DPC's advocacy work, in line with the DPC's mandate. The selection and timing of these thematic priorities will take into account the knowledge base and recommendations provided by evaluations by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the opportunities for cooperation.

The current themes are primarily aimed at information exchange, interaction and learning. Their selection particularly considers Parliament's information needs. Key and current themes are selected to support and complement each other. Additionally, the work programme schedules advocacy work as well as working trips and other events organised by the DPC.

The work programme is a living document, which is reviewed towards the end of each operational year and updated by the DPC's working committee for the following operational year as needed.

¹ Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work primarily takes place through the other two thematic objective areas. For example, there are currently no known consultations with the government on the role of the DPC that should be considered in the work programme.

Selection of key themes of the target areas

The DPC's work focuses on influencing and monitoring the implementation of the government programme and government reports. The work is based on the goals set for development policy during the government term, which are reflected against international commitments (particularly the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), agreements and best practices, as well as recommendations from independent evaluations. The foundation of the DPC's work is the human rights-based approach to foreign relations.

Key themes are selected according to the DPC's strategy so that in target area two, the DPC focuses on the links between foreign relations and development policy. For foreign and security policy and development policy, 1-2 issues of most relevance to development policy and sustainable development are selected. The same applies to trade and development. A common position and recommendations are sought based on evidence, and advocacy work is carried out. The work programme will devote time and resources to advocacy in a more systematic way.

In addition, together with the Finnish National Commission for Sustainable Development, the DPC monitors the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and selects 1-2 issues related to the Paris Climate Agreement and other agreements and commitments that are binding on Finland for consideration by the Commission.

In the third target area, the committee monitors progress on development priorities by government term, including their performance and resource allocation. This includes monitoring the implementation of the principles of good development cooperation and humanitarian aid and development financing, as well as the strengthening of the sustainable development impact of other policy areas, together with the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

The work is based on the goals set for development policy during the government term, which are reflected against international commitments, agreements and best practices.



OPERATIONAL YEAR 2024

SPRING TERM

- DPC organisation and induction
- DPC strategy and work programme processes
- Topical plenary sessions and meetings: *Trade and development linkages, Ukraine as a Finnish development policy partner, and the situation in Gaza (UNRWA)*
- One-to-one meeting of MPs from each party and support for the work of the DPC (Secretariat).

AUTUMN TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work

(Target area 1)

- Presenting the DPC strategy and work programme, informing about the DPC's plans and exploring the scope for collaboration during the term
 - a) In parliamentary groups/parties (Chair/MP + Secretariat)
 - b) In key parliamentary committees (Chair/MP + Secretariat)
 - c) In the Prime Minister's Office/inter-ministerial coordination network on sustainable development (Secretary General)
 - d) At the MFA: in the ministry's management group and senior management group (Chairs of the DPC + Secretariat)
 - e) In DPC members' own networks (all members promote and inform the Secretariat about advocacy activity)
- *Advocacy planning with members for future statements. In cooperation with the membership, the DPC's potential for influence will be increased through comprehensive and timely communication and information, including online, press releases and event marketing. The target audience will be broadened through the membership beyond those already familiar with development policy.*

Formulation of a common position: external relations linkages and promoting sustainable development (Target areas 2–3)

- DPC statement on the implementation of reports guiding development policy in *Finland's international economic relations and development cooperation/foreign and security policy*.
 - The DPC will issue a joint statement, selecting key themes from the reports on the implementation of which it considers it necessary to provide a statement in the light of its strategy.
 - For example, comments on the guidance of the reports (including sustainability, effectiveness and resources) and on the implementation of Finland's development policy priorities: the rights of women and girls, education and climate action.
 - The thematic choices will be refined during the drafting process, where members will be able to comment collectively on the topics and the way they are addressed.
 - The knowledge base for a common viewpoint will be based on, among other things, the recommendations of MFA evaluations and the recommendations of the OECD/DAC Finland 2024 Peer Review.
 - The working committee membership and its meetings will be used as a forum for developing a common position.
 - Draft statements are prepared by the Secretariat, commented on by the whole DPC, and approved by the full members in the working committee or via email.
 - The adopted statement will be published and discussed with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavio and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elina Valtonen, and their cabinet, ministry and senior management teams.
 - The statement will be communicated jointly in line with the strategy of the DPC. A press release will be issued. Information to the media will be disseminated via the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists. Use will be made of members' social media and other channels.

The DPC's goal is to increase the long-term approach and coherence of development policy in the implementation of the Government Programme.

Topical issues and processes

- *Topical plenary session on the situation in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, incl. Sudan and Somaliland (19 November 2024).* Examining the links between humanitarian aid, development and peace. The session will provide the background for a field trip to Ethiopia by DPC parliamentarians.
- *Topical process and discussion paper: How can Finland Promote Gender Equality at the Heart of NATO through the Women, Peace and Security Action Plan?*
 - Launch a specific mandate to influence Finnish NATO policy (November 2024 - February 2025)
 - A steering group composed of the DPC membership and secretariat and key stakeholders will be set up to support the project. The DPC Secretary General will chair the steering group. The Secretariat will be responsible for coordination and the process of producing the discussion paper.
 - The advocacy work will continue during the spring term.
- MFA review of reforms to development policy legislation in the working committee 10 December 2024.

Travel

- A DPC field trip to Ethiopia will take place with the MP members of the DPC in the last week of November. The main aim of the mission is to strengthen the MPs' knowledge of Finland's development policy and development challenges. The trip will provide a comprehensive insight into the situation in Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa region, as well as into Finland's development policy as part of the international community and partnerships. The Secretary General will prepare a report on the trip together with the delegation.

Events

- OECD/DAC Peer Review of Finland's Development Cooperation 2024, publication launch in Helsinki on 13 December 2024 (MFA). DPC Vice-Chair Jani Kokko (Soc.Dem.) will deliver the DPC's statement.

OPERATIONAL YEAR 2025

SPRING TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work (Target area 1)

- Advocacy and communications work regarding the joint policy statement completed in the autumn term, as outlined in the strategy and work programme.
- Advocacy and communications work about the NATO Women, Peace and Security discussion paper according to its recommendations.
- The Secretariat will convene members interested in advocacy and communication and develop a joint advocacy plan for both themes.
 - Including widespread distribution of the publication and statement
 - Parliament/Parliamentary committees
 - MFA and senior management groups, other officials in ministries, NATO headquarters, Finnish overseas missions
 - Other networks and the public (online communication through the DPC's membership). Information to the media is provided through the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists.
- Planning and implementation of meetings with key persons
- Common position based on a discussion paper (tbc)

The DPC's goal is to strengthen gender equality in Finland's NATO policy and NATO engagement through the linkages between foreign and security policy and development cooperation. Increasing interaction between actors and reducing silos between external relations sectors.

Topical issues and processes


- Topical plenary sessions:
 - *UN Convention on the Future, Finland's Country Report on Sustainable Development (Voluntary National Review – VNR) and preliminary discussion on the future of the SDGs.*² The VNR will be launched in New York at the UN High Level Forum 2025 (plenary January/February) including the identification of subsequent steps.
 - Growing humanitarian needs, humanitarian principles and triple Nexus (plenary March) and the MFA's Ukraine evaluation annual review.
 - The outlook for development finance at national and international level (plenary session in May)
 - International Development Finance Architecture
 - Innovative sources of finance and leverage mechanisms
 - The transformation of the funding landscape (incl. BRICS)
 - International funding opportunities
- *Topical process and discussion paper: How can Finland promote climate security in NATO through NATO's Environmental Strategy?* (tbc, taking into account the funding situation)
 - Possible launch of a specific mandate to influence Finnish NATO policy (April 2025 - June 2025).
 - A steering group composed of the DPC membership and secretariat and key stakeholders will be set up to support the project. The DPC Chairperson will chair the steering group. The Secretariat will be responsible for coordination and the process of producing the discussion paper.
 - The advocacy work will start in the autumn.

² The future of the SDGs will be revisited as a separate topic towards the end of the mandate. At UN level, the debate on the future of the SDGs is due to start in 2027.

Travel

- The DPC Chairs and Secretariat will visit the OECD/DAC and OECD Development Centre in Paris (tbc)

Events

- *Finland in international comparison of sustainable development: examining the global dimension* – joint meeting with the Finnish National Commission for Sustainable Development, in Helsinki (March 2025)
 - Public event and launch event including press lunch at the Finnish Parliament Annex (Little Parliament): *How can Finland promote gender equality at the heart of NATO through the Women, Peace and Security Action Plan?* (March/April 2025)
 - Launch of a series of debates in cooperation with DPC members: the UN Convention on the Future, the future of development policy and Finland (tbc) (May 2025)
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AUTUMN TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work

- Advocacy and communication regarding the DPC's positions completed in the spring term and NATO climate security. Building on the action model used in the spring and developing it at the beginning of the autumn term.

Formulation of a common position (Target area 2)

- Trade and development linkages: a clean transition as a common objective
 - The DPC will issue a joint statement, selecting the key issues on which it considers it necessary to take a position in the light of its strategy (e.g. including energy, circular economy, water)
 - The focus choices will be refined during the drafting process, where members will be able to comment collectively on the topics and the way they are addressed.
 - The information base for the common vision will draw as far as possible on the MFA's evaluation of the environment and natural resource sectors and other existing reports and presentations.
 - The working committee membership and its meetings will be used as a forum for developing a common position.
 - Draft statements are prepared by the Secretariat, commented on by the whole DPC, and approved by the full members in the working committee or via e-mail.
 - The adopted statement will be published and discussed with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavio and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elina Valtonen, and their cabinet, ministry and senior management teams and the relevant units.
 - A separate plan will be drawn up for parliamentary advocacy.
 - The statement will be communicated jointly in line with the DPC's strategy. A press release will be issued on the statement. Information to the media will be disseminated via the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists. Use will be made of DPC members' social media and other channels.

The DPC's goal is to promote a results-based clean transition in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Finland's development cooperation and partnerships.

Topical issues and processes

- Topical plenary sessions:
 - *Finland as an implementer of the UNSC Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security Resolution*
 - *The conditionality of aid: principles and practices and implications of conditionality (September plenary session)*
 - *Presentation of the MFA's Democracy and Environment and Natural Resources evaluations to the DPC working committee*
 - *Other emerging topics (including digitalisation) on a demand-driven basis.*

Travel

- DPC field trip to Nepal or Zambia (October/November). The main aim is to familiarise MPs with Finland's development policy activities in the country's development challenges and opportunities (incl. transition). The DPC's Travel Report (2018) provides background and benchmarks.

Events

- Series of debates in cooperation with the DPC membership: the UN Convention on the Future, the future of development policy and Finland (focus to be chosen according to topicality)
- Joint event to activate young policy makers in development policy, for example on the topic of digitalisation (tbc).

OPERATIONAL YEAR 2026

SPRING TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work

- Advocacy and communication on the positions to be completed in the DPC's autumn term.

Formulation of a common position (Target area 2)

- *Linkages and financing between the Paris Climate Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement* (taking into account the timing of the parties' meetings)
 - The DPC will issue a joint statement, selecting the key issues it considers necessary to address in the context of its mandate.
 - In the process of drafting the statement, DPC members will be able to comment collectively on the key points and the way in which they are dealt with.
 - As far as possible, existing reports and evaluations (including the MFA's evaluations on climate finance and biodiversity) will be used as a knowledge base for the common position.
 - The membership of the working committee and its meetings will be used as a forum for developing a common position.
 - Draft statements are prepared by the Secretariat, commented on by the whole DPC, and approved by the full members in the working committee or via email.

- The adopted statement will be published and discussed with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavio and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elina Valtonen, and their cabinet, ministry and senior management teams and the relevant units. The topic will also be discussed in inter-governmental coordination groups at ministerial and Prime Minister's Office levels.
- A separate plan will be drawn up for parliamentary advocacy.
- The position will be communicated jointly in line with the DPC strategy. A press release will be issued on the statement. Information to the media will be disseminated via the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists. Use will be made of DPC members' social media and other channels.

The DPC's goal is to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement and raise awareness of financing mechanisms and targets.

Topical issues and processes

- Topical plenary sessions
 - Finland's assistance to Ukraine: a review of the status and effectiveness of assistance (taking into account the completion of the evaluation)
 - Results of the digitalisation evaluation, presentation to the working committee



AUTUMN SESSION

Formulation of a common position

(Target area 2)

Digitalisation in development policy

- The DPC will issue a joint statement, selecting the key issues on which it considers it necessary to take a position in the light of its strategy.
 - In the process of drafting the statement, members will be able to comment collectively on the issues and the way they are addressed.
 - As far as possible, existing reports and evaluations (including the UM Digitalisation Evaluation and previous DPC studies on the subject) will be used as a knowledge base for the common position.
 - The working committee membership and its meetings will be used as a forum for developing a common position.
 - Draft statements are prepared by the secretariat, commented on by the whole Committee, and approved by the full members in the working committee or via e-mail.
- The adopted statement will be published and discussed with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavio and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elina Valtonen, and their cabinet, ministry and senior management teams and the relevant units.
- A separate plan will be drawn up for parliamentary advocacy.
- The position will be communicated jointly in line with the DPC's strategy. A press release will be issued on the statement. Information to the media will be disseminated via the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists. Use will be made of DPC members' social media and other channels.

The goal of the DPC is for a closer link between trade and development to promote sustainable and human rights-based digitalisation.

Travel

- DPC field trip or other visit (Parliament recess week tbc)

Events

- Series of debates in cooperation with members: the UN Convention on the Future, the future of development policy and Finland (focus on digitalisation)

Topical issues and processes

- Development policy in the Government Programme



OPERATIONAL YEAR 2027

SPRING TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work

- Advocacy and communication on the positions to be completed in the DPC's autumn term.

Formulation of a common position (Target area 2)

- Advocacy around the parliamentary elections/Government Programme
- DPC's collated reviews of MFA evaluations based on advocacy work concerning the Government Programme and the next development policy orientations (using AI-based synthesis data).
 - Development policy as a part of foreign and security policy
 - Development cooperation and development finance as a driver of trade and economic activity
 - Performance management and knowledge management

Topical issues and processes

- Presentation of the MFA's women and girls evaluation at the DPC plenary session.
- MFA's Ukraine evaluation annual review.
- Recap of the government term of office and a knowledge-based outlook for the next round of talks
- *Discussion paper: education and training in development policy*

Events

- Series of debates in cooperation with members: the UN Convention on the Future, the future of development policy and Finland going forward (focus to be chosen according to topicality)
- Discussion paper launch event: *Education in Development Policy*

AUTUMN TERM

Strengthening DPC's position and advocacy work

- Advocacy and communication on the DPC's previous positions and the *Education for Development policy discussion paper*

Formulating a common position (Target area 3)

The status and rights of women and girls in Finland's foreign relations

- The DPC will issue a joint statement focusing on the human rights-based, long-term, performance and resource aspects of gender equality work (including the common EU target of 85% gender equality).
 - In the process of drafting the statement, members will be able to comment collectively on the issues and the way they are addressed.
 - As far as possible, existing reports and evaluations (including the UM digitalisation evaluation and previous DPC studies on the subject) will be used as a knowledge base for the common position.
 - The working committee membership and its meetings will be used as a forum for developing a common position.
 - Draft statements are prepared by the secretariat, commented on by the whole Committee, and approved by the full members in the working committee or via e-mail.
- The adopted statement will be published and discussed with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ville Tavio and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Elina Valtonen, and their cabinet, ministry and senior management teams and the relevant units.
- A separate plan will be drawn up for parliamentary advocacy.
- The statement will be communicated jointly in line with the DPC's strategy. A press release will be issued on the statement. Information to the media will be disseminated via the MFA/Finnish News Agency and directly to journalists. Use will be made of DPC members' social media and other channels.

The DPC's goal is to strengthen long-term, results-based gender equality work across government terms.

Topical issues and processes

- Plenary sessions on topical issues:
 - Development policy guidelines
 - Other topical issues
- Development policy briefings for new MEPs
- Completion of the process of setting up the new DPC with the MFA
- Meeting and orientation of new (week 30, 2027) chairs and members

Travel

- DPC field trip or other visit (Parliament recess week tbc)

Events

- Series of debates in cooperation with members: the UN Convention on the Future, the future of development policy and Finland going forward (focus to be chosen according to topicality)

