



Global Responsibility - Austrian Platform for  
Development and Humanitarian Aid  
*Apollogasse 4/9, 1070 Vienna, Austria*  
*[www.globaleverantwortung.at](http://www.globaleverantwortung.at)*



Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk der  
Katholischen Jungschar / DKA Austria  
*Wilhelminenstraße 91/II f, 1160 Vienna, Austria*  
*[www.dka.at](http://www.dka.at)*



Light for the World International  
*Niederhofstraße 26-28, 1120 Vienna, Austria*  
*[www.light-for-the-world.org](http://www.light-for-the-world.org)*

---

## **Submission of**

Global Responsibility –  
Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid

Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar / DKA Austria

Light for the World International

**for the Universal Periodic Review of Austria at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the  
UPR working group  
to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner**

**07 July 2025**

For additional information, please contact:

Melanie Bernhofer | Policy Officer | Global Responsibility  
Tel.: +43 1 522 44 22 – 13  
[melanie.bernhofner@globaleverantwortung.at](mailto:melanie.bernhofner@globaleverantwortung.at)

## Table of content

1. Introduction.....	5
2. Austria’s framework for the implementation of international human rights obligations .....	5
3. Human Rights in Austrian Development Cooperation .....	7
a. The Whole-of-Government approach of ADC .....	7
b. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) .....	8
c. Participation of civil society .....	8
4. Humanitarian aid and assistance .....	9
5. Financing for sustainable development .....	10
6. Business and Human Rights .....	11
7. Thematic Human Rights Priorities in Development Cooperation .....	13
a. Gender Equality and Women’s Rights .....	13
b. Rights and Inclusion of People with Disabilities .....	14
c. Rights of children and youth .....	15
i. Implementation and mainstreaming of children's rights .....	15
ii. Children's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment .....	15
iii. Ratification Third Optional Protocol to the UN CRC.....	16
iiii. Protection of children in armed conflict.....	17
d. Food Security and the Right to Food .....	17
8. Conclusio .....	18

## List of abbreviations

<b>ADC</b>	Austrian Development Cooperation
<b>ADA</b>	Austrian Development Agency
<b>AKF</b>	Auslandskatastrophenfonds (Foreign Disaster Relief Fund)
<b>Beirat</b>	Beirat für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (Advisory Council on Development Policy)
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>CSDDD</b>	Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive
<b>DAC</b>	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
<b>DKA</b>	Dreikönigsaktion - Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FDCA</b>	Federal Development Cooperation Act
<b>GNI</b>	Gross National Income
<b>HDP</b>	Humanitarian-Development-Peace
<b>HuKoPla</b>	Humanitarian Coordination Platform
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>LDCs</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>MICs</b>	Middle-Income Countries
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan

<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OPDs</b>	Organisations of People with Disabilities
<b>PCSD</b>	Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
<b>SDG(s)</b>	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
<b>SHHÖ</b>	Strategy for Humanitarian Aid (Strategie für Humanitäre Hilfe Österreichs)
<b>TYP</b>	Three-Year-Programme on Austrian Development Policy
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN CRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>UN CRPD</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>UNDROP</b>	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas
<b>UNHRC</b>	United Nations Human Rights Council
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>WGA</b>	Whole-of-Government Approach

## **1. Introduction**

- (1) This submission has been jointly prepared by *Global Responsibility, DKA Austria* and *Light for the World International*. It assesses the current state of Austria's Development Cooperation (ADC) and Humanitarian Aid, with a particular focus on human rights, compliance with international obligations, and corporate responsibility.
- (2) In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges. The far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic - including health crises, social inequalities, and economic downturns - have been compounded by ongoing wars and conflicts in regions such as Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and the Middle East. The climate crisis remains a pressing global threat, while geopolitical shifts, rising protectionism, and the evolving influence of major powers such as the United States, Russia, and China continue to reshape the international landscape.
- (3) Notably, reductions in global development aid have further exacerbated these challenges. For instance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has terminated over 90% of its contracts and grants, leading to the closure of numerous essential aid programmes worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Other nations, including the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, have also announced substantial cuts to their official development assistance (ODA), raising concerns about the future of humanitarian efforts.
- (4) Within this context, this report highlights the urgent need to respect and protect human rights and human dignity. It underscores the importance of strengthening health, social, environmental, and economic systems - both in Europe and in countries of the Global South - and calls for renewed commitment to international cooperation to realise human rights for all.

## **2. Austria's framework for the implementation of international human rights obligations**

- (5) Article 2 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights stipulates "international aid and co-operation" as a means for realising economic, social, and cultural rights through the member states.<sup>2</sup> To benefit from international aid and cooperation, however, developing countries require support from countries like Austria.
- (6) The legal framework for ADC is the Federal Development Cooperation Act of 2002, amended in 2003 (FDCA).<sup>3</sup> Amongst others, it enshrines promoting human rights<sup>4</sup> as one of its main objectives. The central development policy positions and the strategic framework are defined in the Three-Year-Programmes (TYP) on Austrian development policy. ADC is implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), several Austrian Ministries, and other public actors.
- (7) The guiding principle concerning policy coherence for development is formulated as follows: "The Federal Government, in the fields of policy it pursues that may have effects on developing countries, shall take into consideration the objectives and principles of

development policy.”<sup>5</sup> The overall responsibility for implementation lies with the Ministry for European and International Affairs. The Minister for European and International Affairs is responsible for the coordination of development cooperation.<sup>6</sup> One additional guiding principle for their work is to pursue a human rights-based approach in all its projects, programmes, and political dialogues.<sup>7</sup>

- (8) During Austria's 2020/2021 UPR, recommendations were made to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to meet the international target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI). However, between 2020 and 2025, Austria's ODA remained significantly below this target, reaching only 0.38% of GNI in 2023 and decreasing to 0.34% of GNI in 2024.<sup>8</sup> While Austria has made incremental progress in absolute ODA spending and reaffirmed its commitment in the Three-Year-Programme on Austrian Development Policy (2022–2024)<sup>9</sup> and in the recently published government working programme “*Jetzt das Richtige tun. Für Österreich.*” (2025–2029)<sup>10</sup>, a lack of clear timelines and strategic measures has hindered substantial progress. The OECD DAC Peer Review in 2020 also highlighted persistent fragmentation in Austria's approach to development assistance, underscoring the need for greater coherence and ambition, as reiterated in the OECD DAC Peer Mid-term Review in 2024.<sup>11</sup>
- (9) Austria's ODA in 2024 amounted to €1.682 billion, representing 0.34% of GNI. This marks a decrease of €128.8 million or 7.1% compared to 2023. A significant portion of Austria's ODA continues to be spent on high in-donor refugee costs, imputed student costs, and multilateral contributions, leaving limited resources for direct development projects. Least-developed countries (LDCs) received only €39.80 million in 2023, which remains a small fraction of Austria's total ODA and far below the international target of allocating 0.15–0.20% of GNI to LDCs. Additionally, most bilateral funding is directed toward Middle-Income Countries (MICs) rather than LDCs, further highlighting the need for a stronger focus on the most vulnerable nations.<sup>12</sup>
- (10) Between 2020 and 2025, Austria made important formal progress in the area of humanitarian assistance, most notably with the adoption of its first national Humanitarian Aid Strategy in 2023. However, its implementation remains significantly delayed: To date, no operational plan with indicators or financial allocations has been published. Funding through the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund (AKF) peaked in 2022 at €104 million but declined again by 2023, despite increasing global needs. This regression undermines Austria's credibility as a reliable humanitarian actor. The volatility of funding, increased politicisation (e.g. temporary funding suspensions in the Middle East), and the absence of a human rights-based steering framework contradict Austria's commitments to a principled, rights-based foreign policy. Civil society remains structurally under-involved in planning and oversight.
- (11) The prolonged government formation following Austria's September 2024 elections severely disrupted the country's development cooperation framework, leaving CSOs in a precarious position. The absence of a new Three-Year-Programme on Development Policy

until June 2025, combined with stalled 2025–2026 budget negotiations and a funding freeze by the ADA between January and June 2025, created significant uncertainty. These delays and proposed budget cuts have already resulted in staff layoffs, particularly in smaller organisations, and threaten the sustainability of many others. While civil society welcomes the eventual adoption of the Three-Year-Programme 2025-2027<sup>13</sup>, which promotes climate justice, gender equality, and inclusion, its impact will depend on adequate funding and implementation. Without stable financing and strategic continuity, Austria risks undermining its international human rights commitments and hindering progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Recommendation:**

- Implement the government's work programme and the Three-Year-Programme while also developing and executing a clear, time-bound strategy to reach the 0.7% GNI target for Official Development Assistance. Ensure policy coherence at the federal level and prioritise sustainable development goals in alignment with international commitments.

### **3. Human Rights in Austrian Development Cooperation**

#### **a. The Whole-of-Government approach of ADC**

(12) The Whole-of-Government Approach (WGA) is crucial for Austria's development policy to ensure coherence across ministries, prevent fragmented efforts, and maximise the impact of resources in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The application of the WGA can foster synergies and address global challenges holistically. In recent years, Austria has improved stakeholder coordination through platforms like SDG Watch Austria<sup>14</sup> and enhanced data transparency via Statistics Austria's SDG tracking system while prioritising cross-cutting themes such as gender equality and youth engagement. However, challenges remain, including inconsistent interministerial collaboration<sup>15</sup>, the absence of a binding long-term strategy, limited parliamentary oversight, and the underpowered Advisory Council on Development Policy (*Beirat für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*).

### **Recommendations:**

- Develop a coherent, whole-of-government strategy for all actors of ADC in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with clear objectives, indicators and responsibilities.
- Renew the Advisory Council (criteria for membership, clear mandate and its transparency), strengthen the role of the parliament and upgrade the subcommittee on development policy to a standing parliamentary committee.

#### b. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

- (13) Various Austrian policies in areas such as mineral resources, agriculture, and taxation significantly influence socio-economic and ecological development strategies in the Global South. At times, these policies contradict Austria's development cooperation objectives, undermining its efforts. To enhance the effectiveness of ADC, it is essential to address policy incoherencies and conflicting objectives, ensuring a more consistent and aligned approach.
- (14) Policy coherence is a core principle of the Federal Development Cooperation Act, ensuring that various ministries strategically coordinate policies, ranging from economic and trade to climate and security, to align with Austria's development priorities and enhance effectiveness and visibility. While the TYP (2022-2024) emphasises a whole-of-government approach and reaffirms Austria's commitment to policy coherence for sustainable development<sup>16</sup>, no institutional mechanisms have been established to implement and enforce it. The TYP acknowledges linkages to other relevant strategies and key stakeholders but lacks an arbitration mechanism to address, negotiate, or resolve conflicting interests. Although interministerial coordination is mentioned, Austria still lacks institutional arrangements and transparent leadership to follow up on coherence issues systematically.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Develop an intersectoral coordination mechanism that strengthens coordination across policy areas, such as trade, climate, and development, to ensure alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This mechanism should focus on identifying and addressing spillover effects and policy conflicts between sectors, ensuring that actions in one area support rather than undermine progress in others.
- Clearly define the key priorities that cut across multiple sectors (e.g., climate finance, social justice) and implement inclusive mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. to ensure that development policies reflect shared goals and benefit from broad input, particularly from marginalised and underrepresented groups.
- Strengthen the capacity for systematic impact assessments and transparent reporting on development policies, including clear tracking of progress toward SDG targets and a focus on accountability for the outcomes of development cooperation.

#### c. Participation of civil society

- (15) Civil society in Austria continues to play a crucial role in advancing human rights, yet significant challenges remain. While consultations and participatory processes have improved, the full implementation of the *Standards of Public Participation*<sup>17</sup> is still



pending. Transparency and accessibility in decision-making processes need further enhancement to maximise the full potential of civil society engagement. In times of crisis, civil society initiatives have consistently played an indispensable role in addressing complex challenges, such as migration and asylum<sup>18</sup>, as seen, for instance, by their support for war refugees from Ukraine. These efforts often help to fill gaps where state structures face difficulties. Despite advancements, such as Vienna's initiatives to integrate human rights into urban governance and the active involvement of NGOs in policymaking<sup>19</sup>, the benefits of systematic public participation are yet to be fully realised.

- (16) The National Human Rights Action Plan ("NAP Menschenrechte") constitutes a key instrument for fulfilling Austria's human rights obligations. Development of the plan has been underway since 2014, with constructive input from civil society throughout the process.<sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, finalisation and formal adoption remain pending more than a decade later.

#### Recommendations:

- Implement the *Standards for Public Participation*, ensuring consistent inclusion and accessibility for all stakeholders across federal and regional levels.
- Establish systemic mechanisms for transparent coordination between ministries and civil society to address human rights challenges strategically.
- Establish a binding timeline for the finalisation and adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, accompanied by clearly defined responsibilities, implementation criteria, and mechanisms for inclusive stakeholder participation.

#### **4. Humanitarian aid and assistance**

- (17) The adoption of Austria's first Humanitarian Aid Strategy (SHHÖ) in 2023 marked an important step toward institutionalising a human rights-based approach within Austria's humanitarian policy.<sup>21</sup> The strategy makes explicit references to humanitarian principles, as well as to the principles of inclusion and participation. However, its implementation remains incomplete: to date, no binding operational plan, dedicated budgetary tracks, or robust accountability mechanisms have been established.
- (18) The Humanitarian Coordination Platform (HuKoPla) has facilitated occasional dialogue between stakeholders but lacks structural effectiveness and a mandate for enforceable decision-making. Meanwhile, funding through the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund (AKF) increased significantly until 2022, only to be reduced in subsequent years, suggesting a reversal of earlier progress and weakening Austria's reliability as a humanitarian partner.
- (19) Although Austria's Three-Year-Programmes refer to human rights and humanitarian aid, these references remain largely rhetorical and have not been translated into binding operational procedures or measurable commitments. While the humanitarian-

development-peace (HDP) nexus is conceptually recognised, it has not yet been institutionalised.

- (20) Austria's response to the Ukraine war and the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the capacity to rapid mobilisation. However, these responses lacked a long-term strategic vision rooted in human rights-based planning, particularly regarding inclusion, equity and international solidarity obligations (e.g. global vaccine justice, disability inclusion in evacuation measures).

### **Recommendation:**

- Austria should adopt a binding implementation plan for the Humanitarian Aid Strategy, including indicators, dedicated budget lines, early action triggers, and inclusive governance mechanisms. This should be reinforced by institutionalising the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and ensuring long-term, needs-based, and consistent funding that aligns with human rights obligations and international solidarity principles.

## **5. Financing for sustainable development**

- (21) The recent adoption of the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the “promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development”<sup>22</sup> (A/HRC/58/L.7) marks a significant development in the international governance of financing for sustainable development. The resolution underscores the imperative for states to align fiscal and development policies with human rights obligations, particularly through reforms to the international financial architecture. As an OECD member state with commitments to both development cooperation and human rights, Austria is well-positioned to integrate these principles into its domestic and international policy frameworks.

### **Recommendations:**

- Austria should give its Advisory Council on Development Policy (*Beirat für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*) a formal mandate to assess and monitor the human rights impacts of fiscal and development policies. This would operationalise the resolution's call for rights-based economic governance through systematic human rights impact assessments, such as ODA allocations and tax treaties.
- Austria should accelerate progress toward its 0.7% ODA/GNI commitment by reorienting development funding to address structural inequalities in the Global South, for instance, through debt relief initiatives.

## 6. Business and Human Rights

- (22) In the 2021 UPR, Austria received a recommendation to “[a]dopt national legislation regulating the activity of transnational companies with a human rights-based approach”.<sup>23</sup> Austria supported this recommendation “with the understanding that the results of the ongoing EU consultations on a common approach to sustainable corporate governance (Sustainable Corporate Governance Initiative) will be awaited.”<sup>24</sup>
- (23) On 23 February 2022, the European Commission published a draft directive on *Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence*<sup>25</sup>. Subsequently, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament adopted their respective positions. Throughout trilogue negotiations, the Austrian Federal Ministries of Justice and Labour and Economic Affairs facilitated an inclusive consultation process, including roundtables and opportunities for stakeholder feedback. Austrian civil society participated actively and constructively. Austria also contributed coordinated positions within the Council.
- (24) However, during the final negotiation stages, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economic Affairs shifted its stance, advocating amendments that deviated from established international standards, such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Ultimately, Austria abstained in the Council’s final vote.
- (25) After extensive negotiations, the European Parliament adopted the directive’s final text on 24 April 2024. It entered into force on 25 July 2024, requiring member states to transpose it into national law by 26 July 2026. The directive mandates due diligence for EU companies and parent companies with over 1,000 employees and global turnover exceeding €450 million, as well as for non-EU companies operating in the EU under similar conditions. Affected companies must integrate due diligence into internal policies, invest accordingly, secure assurances from business partners, and support SMEs in compliance efforts. They must also adopt transition plans aligned with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C target. Member states are tasked with establishing supervisory authorities to guide, monitor, and enforce compliance. Sanctions may include public naming and pecuniary penalties, with the maximum fine set at no less than 5% of global turnover, with liability for damages and compensation for affected parties.
- (26) On 26 February 2025, the European Commission introduced the Omnibus I Package, aimed at reducing administrative burdens by addressing overlapping reporting obligations. However, the proposed revisions risk substantially weakening the directive’s scope and enforcement. These include postponing implementation by one year, narrowing due diligence to direct business partners with exceptions, reducing monitoring frequency to once every five years, removing harmonised EU civil liability provisions, eliminating penalty thresholds, and withdrawing obligations for climate transition planning and representative legal actions.<sup>26</sup> In particular, the goal of eliminating child labour (SDG 8.7)

would be jeopardised, given that 61% of child labour occurs in agriculture and is therefore usually an issue at the beginning of the supply chain.<sup>27</sup>

(27) The Austrian Federal Minister of Labour and Economy welcomed the revised CSDDD within the EU's omnibus package as a step toward reducing administrative burdens and boosting competitiveness. He underlined, however, that this must not undermine sustainability goals or weaken human rights and environmental standards.<sup>28</sup> Civil society has not yet been consulted but remains open to constructive dialogue to help shape a balanced national position.

### **Recommendations:**

- Commit to an ambitious transposition of the CSDDD into national law, ensuring full implementation of comprehensive due diligence requirements, meaningful engagement with stakeholders, clear civil liability provisions, and coverage of the financial sector.
- Engage with civil society actively throughout the process of transposition of the CSDDD into national law, providing transparent consultation opportunities, also concerning the EU Omnibus I Package, to safeguard and advance human rights standards in supply chains.

(28) The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 169 is a legally binding instrument, vital for securing the universal human rights of indigenous peoples and recognising their distinct status under international law. Although Austria has no indigenous peoples or communities covered by the Convention, ratification would demonstrate alignment of its foreign and development policies with global human rights standards. It would also strengthen political and legal support for indigenous rights worldwide and enhance international monitoring systems crucial for enforcement. Additionally, recognising indigenous peoples' key role in biodiversity and climate protection aligns with Austria's environmental commitments. Ratification would thus be a coherent act of solidarity, reinforcing Austria's credibility in international human rights and environmental efforts.

### **Recommendation:**

- Ratify the ILO Convention No. 169 to reaffirm Austria's commitment to international human rights and environmental standards, strengthen global support for indigenous peoples, and enhance its standing in foreign and development policy.

## **7. Thematic Human Rights Priorities in Development Cooperation**

### **a. Gender Equality and Women's Rights**

- (29) Since the 2020 UPR, Austria has made notable progress in integrating gender equality into its development cooperation. ADA has updated its gender guidelines through the “Guidelines for implementing the EU Gender Action Plan (2024-2030)” within ADC.<sup>29</sup> These serve as a strategic framework for the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and ADA. While cooperation across Austria's fragmented ODA sector is referenced as “leading by example”, it remains uninstitutionalised. The guidelines align with EU and international commitments, including CEDAW, promoting gender-responsive implementation of all SDGs, including SDG 5, and emphasise gender-transformative approaches across sectors such as humanitarian aid and private sector engagement. They also provide clear directives, standards, and tools tailored to ADC's thematic and regional priorities.
- (30) Austria has increased gender-specific funding, reaching the goal of 85% of ADA funding allocated to projects that promote gender equality as either a principal or significant objective for the first time in 2022 and in 2023.
- (31) However, challenges remain in fully mainstreaming gender, for instance, in areas like climate action, and in consistently implementing and monitoring gender-focused initiatives across all development cooperation sectors. OECD DAC data show that only 38% of Austria's overall bilateral aid was marked with Gender Marker 1 and 2 in 2019-2020, and 40% in 2021-2022, well below the figures for ADA alone.<sup>30</sup>
- (32) The OECD reports on “Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment” continued low direct funding to women's organisations, and to initiatives tackling gender-based violence. Austria provided no core funding to UN Women (average per year 2021-22).<sup>31</sup>

### **Recommendations:**

- Set funding goals for both gender mainstreaming and dedicated gender equality initiatives, ensuring they are not limited to specific regions.
- Strengthen institutional capacity-building by fostering systemic learning on gender equality standards across institutions, and implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to assess gender-focused impacts across all development cooperation sectors.
- Increase direct support to local and international women's organisations to strengthen their role in empowerment, combat gender-based violence and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- In light of severe cuts to international development cooperation and humanitarian aid in 2025, which threaten marginalised women and girls in developing countries, Austria

should reallocate adequate funding instead of reducing its aid in the 2025/2026 budget cycle and beyond.

**b. Rights and Inclusion of People with Disabilities**

- (33) Austria's Three-Year Programme for Development Policy (2022–2024) includes important steps for applying a twin-track approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities, which means integrating disability inclusion across all programmes while supporting targeted initiatives. The new Programme (2025-2027) further strengthens this approach. However, to assess progress in the implementation by all actors more specific targets, concrete measures and clear indicators and data are needed.
- (34) The National Action Plan on Disability 2022-2030 refers to the twin-track approach in ADC, setting a goal of at least 10% of operational ADC and European Recovery Programme funds to meet OECD DAC Marker 1 or 2. Given that 16% of the global population lives with a disability<sup>32</sup> - 80% of whom live in the Global South<sup>33</sup> - this target is too low. As of 2023, only 1.44% of ADA-supported projects received the OECD 'inclusion and empowerment' Marker 2, indicating principal support for disability inclusion. 13.39% received Marker 1, reflecting significant secondary support<sup>34</sup>. Inclusion rates drop further when considering other public donors<sup>35</sup>.
- (35) In 2023, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Austria should implement a legal and administrative framework ensuring active involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international cooperation programmes as well as develop and implement indicators to assess the progress in the attainment of the SDGs<sup>36</sup>. No action has been taken to date.
- (36) Austria's Strategy on Humanitarian Aid refers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and addresses intersectional discrimination of women and girls with disabilities. Calls for humanitarian projects consider the inclusion of persons with disabilities an added value. Still, measures such as inclusive budgeting are required for their inclusive implementation.

**Recommendations:**

- Prioritise disability rights and inclusion in international cooperation and increase funding for the implementation of the twin-track approach to implement the UN-CRPD fully.
- Elevate the inclusion of people with disabilities as a cross-cutting policy issue in international cooperation and humanitarian action and systematically apply a human rights-based and intersectional approach, and monitor and report on its implementation.
- Strengthen the meaningful participation of organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) in partner countries throughout the entire programme cycle of international cooperation and humanitarian action.

- Safeguard the protection and safety of people with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies and crises, reflected in the appropriate design of humanitarian action and their prominent feature in guiding vulnerability criteria.

c. Rights of children and youth

i. Implementation and mainstreaming of children's rights

(37) Austria currently addresses children's rights in its development cooperation selectively, without a comprehensive implementation of the UN CRC. As a wealthy nation, Austria has a global responsibility to promote children's rights. Although the "Entwicklungszusammenarbeitsgesetz" (§1 Sec. 4 No. 4) requires that children's needs be meaningfully considered, ADC lacks a systematic child rights-based approach. The 2022-2024 Three-Year-Programme mentioned children as a "main focus" and included a human rights approach, but did not explicitly adopt a child rights perspective.<sup>37</sup> The current Three-Year-Programme (2025-2027) refers to children in different contexts but strategically only in terms of the human rights approach.<sup>38</sup> The 2025 government programme highlights children's needs in the context of gender equality.<sup>39</sup>

(38) A dedicated children's rights approach would strengthen the current framework and is urgently needed. The last structured effort by ADC in this area was in 2014, which emphasised the need to treat child rights as a distinct priority.<sup>40</sup> Key principles included: using child rights standards as a programmatic basis, mainstreaming, inclusivity, participation, and structural anchoring. Since then, there has been little systematic attention to the issue.

**Recommendations:**

- Integrate a child rights approach in ADC and prioritize it in partner countries. Use Germany's "Agents of Change" plan<sup>41</sup> and its review<sup>42</sup> as references.
- Collaborate with civil society to create an intersectional framework for mainstreaming child rights in all phases of project planning and in the Three-Year-Programme.
- Ensure adequate child rights expertise and implementation capacity to ensure coherent measures within BMEIA, ADA, and country offices.
- Consider a focused thematic strategy - following Norway's model<sup>43</sup> - to elevate children's rights as a core area of ADC.

ii. Children's right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

- (39) Nearly half the world's children - about 1 billion - live in countries highly exposed to environmental hazards.<sup>44</sup> Due to their developmental vulnerabilities, children are particularly at risk from air pollution, unsafe water, disease, and heatwaves.<sup>45</sup> UN CRC General Comment 26 urges the integration of children's rights into environmental policies - which Austria has yet to fully implement.<sup>46</sup>
- (40) There remains a significant gap in aligning child rights protection with environmental policy. This is essential for upholding children's health (Art. 24 CRC) and their right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.<sup>47</sup>

### **Recommendations:**

- National strategies should address how environmental harm affects children, including integrating child-specific concerns into climate adaptation, impact assessments, and environmental laws.<sup>48</sup> The climate protection law and the "BVG Kinderrechte" should reflect ecological children's rights and intergenerational justice.
- Develop mechanisms to monitor and report how environmental harm impacts children's health and rights, and track progress.
- Enable meaningful, sustained participation of children and youth in climate and environmental decision-making.<sup>49</sup>
- Fulfill Austria's commitments under international agreements like the Aarhus Convention by ensuring access to information, transparency, and participation.
- Promote awareness of the UN CRC (Art. 42) by educating policymakers, child rights advocates, and environmental groups on the links between children's rights and environmental protection and show leadership in this area nationally and globally.

### iii. Ratification Third Optional Protocol to the UN CRC

- (41) Although Austria signed the Third Optional Protocol in 2012 which allows children to bring individual complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child after exhausting national remedies, it has yet to ratify it.<sup>50</sup> This leaves children without access to this vital international mechanism. Ratification would strengthen individual protections and signal Austria's full commitment to international child rights standards.

### **Recommendation:**

- Ratify the Third Optional Protocol to enable children to seek redress for rights violations.



#### iiii. Protection of children in armed conflict

(42) The 2024 UN Secretary-General's report on Children and Armed Conflict recorded the highest number of grave violations against children in nearly 30 years: 1,370 incidents, a 25% increase from 2023.<sup>51</sup> Alarming rises were also noted in denial of humanitarian access (52%), attacks on schools (44%), and sexual violence (35%), underscoring the worsening global crisis for children in conflict zones.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Strengthen international cooperation to protect children in conflict and combat child trafficking, as required by the UN CRC. Austria should fund monitoring and reporting efforts, especially to support child protection on the ground, and advocate for accountability of perpetrators.
- Ensure prompt guardianship for unaccompanied minors and immediate access to inclusive education for all young migrants and refugees.
- Prioritise the best interests of the child in all asylum and immigration processes. Austria should commit long-term funding to sustainable, timely, gender- and age-sensitive, survivor-centred, and disability-inclusive support—especially for reintegration of victims of grave violations.

#### d. Food Security and the Right to Food

(43) Food security<sup>52</sup> remains one of the most pressing global challenges in the 21st century. Nearly 10% of the global population continues to suffer from hunger and malnutrition.<sup>53</sup> Overlapping global crises, such as climate change, the biodiversity crisis, land degradation, and rising economic inequality, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and threaten to further destabilise food systems. These crises disproportionately affect marginalised communities, particularly smallholder farmers and Indigenous peoples and women and girls.<sup>54</sup>

(44) Austria's commitment to Agenda 2030 requires strong and concrete measures to address the right to food as a fundamental human right. This commitment should not only respond to immediate humanitarian needs but also tackle the root causes of food insecurity by embracing agroecology as a transformative approach to food production that can foster sustainable and resilient food systems. Additionally, the rights of peasants and rural communities must be safeguarded through the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).<sup>55</sup>

(45) Coherent policy alignment across sectors is vital to realising the right to adequate food and building resilient food systems as part of Austria's Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Recommendations:**

- Promote the transformation towards sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems through Austria's national development cooperation by integrating the 13 principles of agroecology<sup>56</sup> and significantly increasing public investment in sustainable agricultural practices. Special emphasis should be placed on supporting smallholder farmers in the Global South.
- Strengthen international cooperation and global governance by leveraging Austria's influence within key multilateral organisations to advocate for policies that prioritise agroecology and the protection of peasant rights worldwide.
- Implement a gender-transformative approach, ensuring equitable access to resources such as land, credit, technology, and governance participation for women and youth, supported by targeted education and capacity-building programmes.
- Ensure that international trade agreements related to food and agriculture include thorough impact assessments on vulnerable populations and ecosystems, and ensure the consultation of smallholder farmers in negotiation processes.
- Apply a humanitarian-nexus approach in food security programmes, combining immediate relief with long-term resilience building, and prioritising adaptive social protection systems for marginalised communities.
- Align food system investments with climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation goals.
- Finalise and implement Austria's strategic guideline on food security, committing to increased and sustained funding for food security and sovereignty initiatives in Global South countries.
- Incorporate the interdependence between biodiversity loss and food security into Austria's Biodiversity Strategy<sup>57</sup> review, ensuring that global commitments adequately address linked challenges.

## **8. Conclusio**

- (46) Austria finds itself at a critical juncture in fulfilling its international human rights obligations, particularly within the realm of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. While recent years have seen important formal advancements, such as the adoption of the Humanitarian Aid Strategy and the integration of gender equality in Austrian Development Cooperation, implementation gaps, inconsistent funding, and lack of strategic coherence continue to undermine these commitments.
- (47) The failure to meet the internationally agreed ODA target of 0.7% of GNI, coupled with a sharp decline in funds directed toward least-developed countries, signals a misalignment between Austria's stated principles and practical action. Fragmentation across ministries, insufficient parliamentary oversight, and the absence of a binding framework to implement

Austria's, whole-of-government development strategy undermines its credibility as a reliable global partner.

- (48) Austria's protracted government formation following the 2024 elections and the ensuing budgetary standstill have intensified the challenges for civil society organisations, which remain underfunded and structurally under-involved despite playing a crucial role in advancing human rights, particularly in times of crisis. The prolonged finalisation of key frameworks, such as the Three-Year Programme and the National Action Plan on Human Rights, have added to the systemic instability affecting Austria's international cooperation landscape.
- (49) Moreover, Austria's approach to corporate responsibility, while participatory during the EU CSDDD process, has lacked consistency and ambition. Abstaining from key decisions and remaining unclear about its position on the Omnibus I Package weakens Austria's standing in promoting human rights in global value chains. In parallel, the insufficient inclusion of people with disabilities, children, and youth in both policy and practice reflects a broader shortfall in mainstreaming intersectional and inclusive approaches.
- (50) Austria's commitment to thematic human rights issues, such as gender equality, children's rights, food security, and climate justice, must be backed by adequate resources, institutional mechanisms, and long-term political will. The promotion of agroecology, disability rights, and the rights of peasants and Indigenous peoples must move beyond rhetorical commitments and be integrated into binding strategies, clear indicators, and inclusive processes.
- (51) This review thus reaffirms the urgent need for Austria to reinforce its development and humanitarian policies with a rights-based, coherent, and forward-looking framework. Strategic reforms must prioritise inclusive governance, sustainable financing, and systemic accountability. In doing so, Austria can not only meet its obligations under international law but also reaffirm its credibility as a principled actor committed to global solidarity, human dignity, and the realisation of the SDGs.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Guardian, *First Thing: Trump Administration to Cut More Than 90% of USAID Foreign Aid Contracts*, 27 February 2025. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/27/first-thing-trump-administration-to-cut-more-than-90-of-usaid-foreign-aid-contracts>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, adopted 16 December 1966, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 993, p. 3. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>

<sup>3</sup> Federal Law Gazette (BGBl) I No. 65/2003, *Federal Development Cooperation Act as amended by the 2003 EZA Amendment Act* [in German]. Available at: [https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA\\_2003\\_I\\_65/BGBLA\\_2003\\_I\\_65.pdf](https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/BgblAuth/BGBLA_2003_I_65/BGBLA_2003_I_65.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., Part 1, para. 1.3.2.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., Part 1, para. 1.5.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., Part 5, para. 28.

<sup>7</sup> Ministry for European and International Affairs, *Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2022–2024*, p. 9. Available at: [https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3JP/3JP\\_2022-2024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3JP/3JP_2022-2024_EN.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *Official Development Assistance (ODA)*. Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/official-development-assistance-oda.html> (accessed 27 June 2025).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 31.

<sup>10</sup> Government of Austria, *Government Working Programme “Jetzt das Richtige tun. Für Österreich.” 2025–2029*, p. 120 [in German]. Available at: [https://www.dievolkspartei.at/Download/Regierungsprogramm\\_2025.pdf](https://www.dievolkspartei.at/Download/Regierungsprogramm_2025.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), *Mid-Term Peer Review: Austria*, DCD/DAC/AR(2024)3/2, 5 March 2024. Available at: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR\(2024\)3/2/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR(2024)3/2/en/pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), *Development Policy and Cooperation*, 2023. Available at: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/development-policy-and-cooperation>

<sup>13</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), *Three-Year-Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2025–2027* [in German], June 2025. Available at: [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/Dreijahresprogramm\\_2025-2027.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/Dreijahresprogramm_2025-2027.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Republic of Austria, *Second Austrian Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs*, 2024. Available at: <https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/dam/jcr:87c1e200-7bc5-4e2b-89d8-8367988a28ff/austria-second-vnr-2024.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), *Peer Review: Austria – Mid-Term Review*, DCD/DAC/AR(2024)3/2. Available at: [https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR\(2024\)3/2/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DCD/DAC/AR(2024)3/2/en/pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>17</sup> Austrian Federal Chancellery and Austrian Society for Environment and Technology (ÖGUT), *Standards of Public Participation* [in German]. Available at: <https://partizipation.at/partizipation-verstehen/prinzipien-der-beteiligung/standards-fuer-beteiligung/>

<sup>18</sup> Amnesty International Austria, “Politik in Österreich versagt bei Asyl und Migration – Zivilgesellschaft krempelt Ärmel auf”, 20 June 2022 [in German]. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.at/presse/politik-in-oesterreich-versagt-bei-asyl-und-migration-zivilgesellschaft-krempelt-aermel-auf/>

<sup>19</sup> City of Vienna, *Declaration of Vienna – City of Human Rights: Preamble* [in German]. Available at: <https://www.wien.gv.at/menschen/integration/menschenrechtsstadt/pdf/deklaration-menschenrechte.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Arbeitsgemeinschaft Globale Verantwortung, *Anmerkungen der Zivilgesellschaft zum Nationalen Aktionsplan Menschenrechte*, 2016 [in German]. Available at: <https://www.globaleverantwortung.at/lobbybrief-nap-menschenrechte/>

<sup>21</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), *Strategy of Austria’s Humanitarian Aid* [in German], 2023. Available at: [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/DE\\_Strategie\\_fuer\\_die\\_Humanitaere\\_Hilfe.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/DE_Strategie_fuer_die_Humanitaere_Hilfe.pdf) (accessed 10 June 2025).

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, *Resolution 58/L.7: Question of the Realization in All Countries of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, A/HRC/58/L.7, 25 March 2025. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/58/L.7>

<sup>23</sup> UN Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Austria*, A/HRC/47/12/Add.1, 7 May 2021. Recommendation 140.17 by Costa Rica, p. 2. Available at: [https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-08/a\\_hrc\\_47\\_12\\_add.1\\_e.pdf](https://upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-08/a_hrc_47_12_add.1_e.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> European Commission, *Proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence*, COM(2022) 71 final, 23 February 2022. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022PC0071>

<sup>26</sup> European Commission, *Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence: Responsible Business Conduct*, 2024. Available at: [https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/sustainability-due-diligence-responsible-business/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/sustainability-due-diligence-responsible-business/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence_en)

<sup>27</sup> International Labour Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund: *Child Labour*, 2025. Available at: <https://headless-live.unicef.de/caas/v1/media/376256/data/7227d32c9394cd1fe6484df5b9456f8a>

<sup>28</sup> Austria Press Agency (APA), *EU-Unterausschuss debattierte über EU-Vorschläge zur Stärkung der europäischen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit*, OTS release, 19 May 2025 [in German]. Available at: [https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20250519\\_OTS0134/eu-unterausschuss-debattierte-ueber-eu-vorschlaege-zur-staerkung-der-europaeischen-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit](https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20250519_OTS0134/eu-unterausschuss-debattierte-ueber-eu-vorschlaege-zur-staerkung-der-europaeischen-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit)

<sup>29</sup> Austrian Development Agency (ADA), *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Guidelines for Implementing the EU Gender Action Plan in Austria’s Development Cooperation (2024–2030)*. Available at:

---

[https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Leitlinien/Englisch/LL\\_Gender\\_EN.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Leitlinien/Englisch/LL_Gender_EN.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> OECD, *Development Finance for Gender Equality 2024: Report*, 29 November 2024. Available at:

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-finance-for-gender-equality-2024\\_e340afbf-en/full-report/component-6.html#chapter-d1e1198-f3dbf6e374](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/development-finance-for-gender-equality-2024_e340afbf-en/full-report/component-6.html#chapter-d1e1198-f3dbf6e374)

<sup>31</sup> OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), *Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Donor Charts*, March 2023. Available at: <https://web-archive.oecd.org/2023-03-07/634734-Aid-to-gender-equality-donor-charts.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities*, 2022.

Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600>

<sup>33</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Disability Inclusion and Resilience* [web page]. Available at:

<https://www.undp.org/geneva/disability-inclusion-and-resilience>

<sup>34</sup> Austrian Development Agency (ADA), *ODA-Bericht 2023: Tabellen*, p. 28. Available at:

[https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/ODA-Berichte/ODA-Bericht\\_2023\\_Tabellen.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/ODA-Berichte/ODA-Bericht_2023_Tabellen.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Sightsavers, *OECD DAC Disability Inclusion Dashboard*, p. 2, data for 2023. Available at:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieGFIMGE0YzMtOGJmMC00YjQ2LWJlNzctYzklOTczOGJkNjQxIiwidCI6IjA1Y2UxY2JkLTFkOWQtNDRIYS04YzFkLTJmZjk3ZWU0YjZmZiIsImMiOjh9>

<sup>36</sup> Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Second and Third Periodic Reports of Austria*, CRPD/C/AUT/CO/2-3, para. 74. Available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/crpdcauto2-3-concluding-observations-combined-second-and-third>

<sup>37</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), *Dreijahresprogramm der österreichischen Entwicklungspolitik 2022–2024* [in German]. Available at:

[https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/Dreijahresprogramm\\_der\\_oesterreichischen\\_Entwicklungspolitik\\_2022-2024.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/Dreijahresprogramm_der_oesterreichischen_Entwicklungspolitik_2022-2024.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA), *Dreijahresprogramm der österreichischen Entwicklungspolitik 2025–2027* [in German]. Available at:

[https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3\\_JP/2025-2027\\_Dreijahresprogramm.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3_JP/2025-2027_Dreijahresprogramm.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> Austrian Federal Chancellery, *Government Documents: Current Federal Government* [web page, in German].

Available at: <https://www.bundestkanzleramt.gv.at/bundestkanzleramt/die-bundesregierung/regierungsdokumente.html>

<sup>40</sup> Austrian Development Agency (ADA), *Fokus: Kinder und Jugendliche in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*, November 2020 [in German]. Available at:

[https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Fokuspaapiere/Fokus\\_Kinder\\_und\\_Jugendliche\\_Nov2020.pdf](https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/Fokuspaapiere/Fokus_Kinder_und_Jugendliche_Nov2020.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), *Agents of Change: Children and Youth as Key Stakeholders in Development Cooperation*, 1 July 2021. Available at:

<https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/85300/bmz179-agents-of-change-210701.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), *Review of the Action Plan on Children's Rights – Final Report*, conducted by Syspons [in German]. Available at:

<https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/175414/syspons-review-aktionsplan-kinderrechte-abschlussbericht.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Klingebiel, S. and Janus, H., *Results-Based Approaches in Development Cooperation: A Review of Experiences and Issues*, *Außenwirtschaftliche Studien* (AuS), No. 14, German Development Institute (IDOS), 2017. Available at:

[https://www.idos-research.de/uploads/media/AuS\\_14.2017.pdf](https://www.idos-research.de/uploads/media/AuS_14.2017.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2024: For Every Child, Vaccination*, 2024. Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/media/165156/file/SOWC-2024-full-report-EN.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> UNICEF, *The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index*, August 2021. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/105376/file/UNICEF-climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General Comment No. 26 (2023) on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change*, CRC/C/GC/26. Available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/crcgc26-general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights>

<sup>47</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 76/300: The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*, A/RES/76/300, adopted on 28 July 2022. Available at:

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/446/61/pdf/n2244661.pdf?token=oPnMST&fe=true>

<sup>48</sup> On the assessment mechanisms of “WFA-KJV” from an ecological child rights perspective, see internal reference in national reporting documents.

<sup>49</sup> Good practice examples include: climate youth delegates from Austria at COP conferences, the climate communication platform, youth participation initiatives, and the Climate Youth Council by the Federal Youth Representation (BJV).

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Treaty Collection, *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure*, Chapter IV, Human Rights, No. 11(d). Available at:

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/MTDSG/Volume%20I/Chapter%20IV/IV-11-d.en.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, *Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/79/878–S/2025/247, 17 June 2025. Available at: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Secretary-General-Annual-Report-on-Children-and-Armed-Conflict-Covering-2024.pdf>

<sup>52</sup> High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), *Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030*, 15th report, Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 2020. Available at:

<https://www.fao.org/3/ca9733en/ca9733en.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), and World

Health Organization (WHO), *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024*, Rome, 2024. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/the-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-the-world-2024>

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Convened under the Auspices of the General Assembly*, A/RES/74/4, 2019. Available at: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694?v=pdf>

<sup>56</sup> High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), *Agroecological and Other Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems that Enhance Food Security and Nutrition*, HLPE Report No. 14, July 2019. Available at: [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/hlpe/hlpe\\_documents/HLPE\\_Reports/HLPE-Report-14\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-14_EN.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), *Biodiversitätsstrategie Österreich 2030+* [in German]. Available at: [https://www.bmimi.gv.at/dam/jcr:49476b8f-31b2-4b7a-857b-3cc1b877207f/Biodiversitaetsstrategie\\_2030.pdf](https://www.bmimi.gv.at/dam/jcr:49476b8f-31b2-4b7a-857b-3cc1b877207f/Biodiversitaetsstrategie_2030.pdf)