

**Notes from the Steering Group meeting
LAC-EU Civil Society Forum 2025**

Online, 20-08-25

1. Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the second meeting of the Steering Group of the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum was to develop an initial proposal of participatory sessions, themes, formats and methodologies for the Forum's agenda. Likewise, an initial proposal of potential speakers, facilitators and moderators was invited, and an initial reflection on the recommendations was invited.

2. Content

Welcome and introduction

Participants were welcomed. Clarifications were made on the process of consultation and approval of the notes of the meetings, and other questions from the members of the Steering Group. And the agenda of the day was presented.

On the notes of the Steering Group meetings

The importance of speeding up the process of consultation and signing of the notes was underlined, avoiding delays. The notes will be reviewed by participants from the EU and the Government of Colombia before being shared, with a view to advancing the process of defining the Forum. Comments and suggestions not related to the Civil Society Forum agenda will be carried over to weekly meetings with Colombia and the EU.

Participation and criteria

It was reaffirmed that the selection of participants corresponds to Colombia and the EU, with a balance between regional representation, diversity of civil society actors and thematic relevance. It was recalled that all organizations interested in participating must respond to the **expression of interest** published at [this link](#) before September 14.

Work on topics and sessions on the agenda of the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum, 7-8 November 2025

The parameters to be taken into account in the discussion on the topics and sessions were shared, which are:

- Opening and closing plenary
- Up to 3 parallel sessions distributed in 3 time slots (one in the morning and two in the afternoon), allowing you to define up to 9 thematic panels
- A topic can be worked on in more than one session, for example, by taking two or three consecutive time slots
- The formats can be diverse: panels followed by contributions from the audience, presentation of case studies, small group discussions (depending on the space), world café, etc.
- Allow spaces to work on the main points of the Joint Declaration during Forum sessions

With these premises, the members of the group worked divided into three groups, and then shared their proposals, which showed a broad consensus.

3. Agreements

Thematic proposals and common thread

The participants agreed on the following **macro-themes**:

- Democracy, human rights and governance (civic space, organized crime, corruption, citizen participation)
- Bi-regional Pact for Care
- Triple transition (environmental, digital and social), with an emphasis on climate change
- Social cohesion and inclusion (including digital transition)
- Development finance and investments (including Global Gateway)
- Multilateralism and civil society participation

Other proposed themes : food security/zero hunger and indigenous peoples.

Without unanimity, but without opposition, it was agreed to work around a **common thread** in the opening and closing, around:

- *Justice, democracy and peace*
- *Meaningful participation of civil society in bi-regional relations*

Discussion on dynamics

- The need for participatory panels and not only expository panels was highlighted.
- The importance of civil society influencing the summit debates, not only in parallel spaces, was mentioned.
- To advance the details of each session, each participant of the steering group was asked to register on the topics on which they wish to work, and thus organize the drafting and coordination groups.

4. Next steps

- Register in the group assigned to the [PFD Dialogue Space](#) to work collaboratively on the agenda.
- Groups have been organized around each of the topics that will work on each session: title, format, moderators and proposed panelists will be shared before September 1.
- Identify and propose possible specific speakers and moderators.
- Actively share with their networks the call for expression of interest launched on 19 September.
- Next meeting: September 3, 2025.

Participants

Members of the Steering Group

1. Alianza Cooperativa Internacional (ICA Américas)
2. Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM)
3. COICA
4. CSA / ITUC Américas
5. Forus International

6. GIFE
7. GNDR
8. Juventudes Diversas por la Vida (Colombia)
9. La Coordinadora
10. MESA de Articulación
11. RED UE-LAT
12. Transparencia Internacional

Observers

13. Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia)
14. Unión Europea: DG. INTPA (Comisión Europea) y Servicio de Acción Exterior de la UE (SEAE)

Technical Assistance

- Policy Forum for Development (PFD)
- GOPA

Absences

- Consejo de la Juventud de España (CJE)/Foro Europeo de Juventud