

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

Online, 03-09-25

1. Meeting Objectives

The third meeting of the Steering Group of the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum aimed to jointly review the sessions proposed by the Working Group (context, objectives, methodology, moderator and suggested panellists, and main messages), for the knowledge and contributions of all members of the Group.

2. Content

Welcome and introduction

The participants were welcomed, and the agenda of the day was presented, including a change in the methodology of work among all (and not in groups).

General comments for all sessions

Several members of the Group were thanked for their participation and contributions to the development of the sessions. By the time of the meeting, proposals had been received for all the proposed topics except for Indigenous Communities and Just Transition/Climate Change/Resilience.

It was noted that the main focus of the sessions should be on the Forum's audience, which are mainly representatives of civil society, in addition to representatives of the governments of Colombia, Latin America and the EU.

It was recalled to consider for speakers and moderators, the possibility of including people representing groups of young people, people with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and gender diversity.

Review of the sessions

Volunteers from the Steering Group presented the opening and closing sessions, which reflect the common thread of the Forum:

- Ensuring an enabling environment for civil society: a condition for democracy, peace and sustainable development in the EU-LAC partnership
- In the face of the crisis of Democracy and the Rule of Law, the Participation of Civil Society as an actor of Peace and a pillar of a just and sustainable society

The following thematic sessions were also presented:

- Bi-regional Pact for Care: The Role of LAC and the EU in the Decade of Action for the Care Society and Substantive Gender Equality
- Social cohesion and digital justice in the bi-regional partnership
- Finance for Sustainable Development: Towards a Just, Equitable and Transparent Bi-regional Agenda

- Organized Crime, Corruption and Democracy: Bi-Regional Challenges for Security and Peace
- SDG 2 in action: sustainable solutions from youth and international cooperation

Physical spaces for the Forum and structure of the Agenda

Available rooms:

- Plenary for up to 500 people in theatre, with interpretation (ES/EN/PT/FR)
- 3 rooms of 120, 80 and 60 people (approx.) at cabaret tables, with interpretation (ES/EN/PT/FR)
- Outdoor meeting spaces: porch and restaurant, no interpretation

Preliminary structure of the Agenda (pending allocation of sessions to each panel):

	Viernes 7 noviembre		
08:00	Bienvenida y registro		
09:00 -09:30	Apertura institucional (plenario)		
09:30 -11:00	Sesión de apertura (plenario)		
11:00-11:30	Café		
11:30-13:00	Panel 1	Panel 2	Panel 3
13:00-14:00	Almuerzo		
14:00-15:30	Panel 4	Panel 5	Panel 6
15:30-16:00	Café		
16:00-17:30	Panel 4 cont.	Panel 5 cont.	Panel 7
19:30	Cena-cóctel y evento cultural		
	Sábado 8 noviembre		
08:00	Bienvenida y registro		
09:00 -10:00	Recap. día 1: conclusiones sesiones temáticas (Plenario)		
10:00 -11:00	Finalización declaración conjunta (en 7 espacios / mesas – rotatorio <u>libre</u>) - Posibilidad de panel(es) adicional(es)		
11:00-11:30	Café		
11:30-13:00	Sesión Plenaria Cierre + presentación declaración conjunta		
13:00-13:30	Ceremonia de clausura		
13:30	Almuerzo		

3. Agreements and next steps

Immediate actions (for Monday 8):

- Review of session outlines: everyone provides feedback, and volunteers who have presented each session share a revised consolidated version
- Relevant Leaders Prepare Sessions on Indigenous Peoples and Just Transition/Climate Change/Resilience
- Include in the outlines of the sessions the proposals (names and organization) of moderators and speakers, indicating which person in the Group proposes it and has the contact

Next actions (next week):

- Drafts of the sessions will be shared with Colombia and the EU for their comments
- Contact the proposed moderators and speakers to test interest and availability.
- Suggest proposals from one or two people to moderate/animate the two days of the Forum
- Pay attention to the key messages of each session, to shape the structure of the Joint Statement

Other:

- Ensure open communication with partners in the Steering Group members' networks and platforms to incorporate their input into the sessions and agenda
- Briefing on progress in preparedness, Wednesday 10 September. Two members of the Steering Group will speak
- Next meeting: September 17, 2025.

Participants

Members of the Steering Group

1. International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Américas)
2. Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM)
3. COICA
4. Youth Council of Spain (CJE)/European Youth Forum
5. CSA / ITUC Américas
6. Forus International
7. GIFE
8. GNDR
9. Youth Sounding Board (Colombia)
10. La Coordinadora
11. MESA de Articulación
12. RED UE-LAT
1. Transparency International

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