

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

Online, 24-09-25 and 01-10-2025

1. Meeting objectives

The fifth meeting of the Steering Group of the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum was scheduled for 1 October. However, in order to advance in the definition of speakers and moderators of the sessions, an extraordinary meeting was convened on September 24. These notes summarize the progress made at both meetings, which correspond respectively to the 5th and 6th meetings.

The purpose of these meetings was: to agree on the agenda structure and review pending changes of speakers and moderators; to identify a Steering Group rapporteur for each session; to identify a group of at least 3 volunteers from the Group to work on the Joint Statement **based on the main messages of each session** and to collect proposals for the title of the Forum.

2. Content

Welcome and introduction

Participants were welcomed, and the agenda for the day was presented at both meetings. In addition, the meeting on 24 September was attended by the EU Delegation to Colombia; and on 1 October, a new person from the Spanish Youth Council/European Youth Forum was welcomed, who will participate in the Forum.

Review of panelists of each session

The moderators and panelists of each of the sessions were reviewed, by the heads of the sessions within the Steering Group, with the following guidelines: based on the *outlines* reviewed after comments from Colombia and the EU; not including more than one representative from each organization; giving preference to organizations that have submitted an expression of interest to participate in the Forum; including organizations from the Caribbean; seeking a balance between panelists of LAC and Europe, as well as a gender balance; and try not to have more than 4 speakers from civil society (and up to 2 institutional speakers) in each session. The resulting proposal must be submitted to Colombia and the EU for comments or approval.

Agenda review and session adjustment

The different agenda options were reviewed, as well as their implications for the format of the sessions. The relevance of simplifying methodologies to encourage the participation of participating organizations was shared. In this sense, the working sessions originally proposed could exclude organizations that are not involved in the proposed work topics. Likewise, methodologies that include group discussions should take into account the need for translation (or designate groups by language).

3. Agreements

The agreements reached were:

- Abolish the working sessions initially planned as a second part of the sessions on Financing for Sustainable Development and on the Bi-regional Pact for Care; and to bring the institutional speakers planned for these working sessions to the main panel with civil society.
- Bring the sessions on Financing for Sustainable Development, the Bi-regional Pact for Care and Social Cohesion and Inequalities to the plenary (such as those already planned on Enabling Environment, in the opening, Recapitulation and Conclusions, and Civil Society Participation, in the closing)
- Shorten all sessions by 15 minutes (make them 1h15' instead of 1h30'), and allow 15 minutes of transition between some sessions.
- Leave five sessions in parallel in two rounds: one with three sessions and one with two, as shown below:

	Viernes 7 noviembre		
07:30	Bienvenida y registro		
08:30 -09:30	Apertura institucional (plenario)		
09:30 -10:45	Sesión de apertura – Espacio cívico (plenario)		
10:45-11:15	Café		
11:15-12:30	Financiación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (plenario)		
12:30-14:00	Almuerzo		
14:00 -15:15	Transición digital	Resiliencia climática comunitaria	Crimen organizado
15:15-15:45	Transición entre sesiones (café en mano)		
15:45-17:00	Gobemanza indígena	Sistemas alimentarios y hambre /ODS2	
17:00-17:15	Transición a la plenaria (sin café)		
17:15 -18:30	Pacto Birregional sobre los Cuidados (pleanrio)		
19:30	Cena-networking y evento cultural		
	Sábado 8 noviembre		
08:00	Bienvenida y registro		
08:30 -09:45	Cohesión social y desigualdades (plenario)		
09:45 -11:00	Conclusiones y Declaración Conjunta (plenario)		
11:00-11:30	Café		
11:30-13:00	Sesión Plenaria Cierre – Participación de la Sociedad Civil		
13:00-13:30	Ceremonia de clausura		
13:30	Almuerzo		

In addition, several volunteers were identified to work on the Joint Declaration based on the main messages of the sessions (MESA, La Coordinadora, FORUS, ICAAméricas and CJE/EYF). Some members of the Steering Group were also identified to serve as rapporteurs for the sessions.

4. Next steps

The following steps are agreed:

- Conclude the agenda this week with all the panelists, for approval by Colombia and the EU (in the meetings of Friday 3 and Tuesday 7).
- Review session *outlines*, include guiding questions, and edit to share with invitations to moderators and panelists.
- Once each session is approved, share contacts of moderators and panelists to invite them, organize preparation meetings and ask them for a short biography (one paragraph)
- Prepare a first draft of the Joint Declaration (10-12 points on no more than 2 single-sided pages), which will be reviewed during the preparation of each session to reflect the messages well and during the Forum to reflect the recommendations.

The next meeting will take place on 15 October 2025. The objective will then be:

- Share the final agenda with session synthesis, organizations, and names
- Share the meeting schedule by session
- Share the draft Joint Statement
- Review with the rapporteurs the methodology for the Conclusions session

Participants

Steering Group members

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
13. Transparency International
14. Ministry of Equality and Equity (Colombia)
15. European Union: DG. INTPA (European Commission)

Observers

16. EU External Action Service (EEAS)

Technical Assistance

- Policy Forum for Development (PFD)
- GOPA

Absences:

17. CSA / ITUC Américas – absent from both meetings
18. GIFE – absent on October 1
19. Transparency International – absent on October 1