

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

Online, 15-10-2025

**1. Meeting objectives**

The seventh meeting of the Steering Group of the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum was aimed at sharing the final agenda of the Forum; sharing the draft Joint Declaration and reflecting on how to work on it until its closure at the end of the Forum; and review the status of session preparation.

**2. Content**

***Welcome and introduction***

Participants were welcomed, and the agenda for the day was presented.

***Final Programme of the Civil Society Forum***

The final agenda was shared (the simplified version with the schedule and titles and objectives of each session, is already shared on the INTPA page on the Forum). Likewise, for each session there will be a descriptive sheet (in preparation) for internal circulation and subsequent publication with the online agenda. The latest confirmations of speakers (mostly the institutional ones of Colombia and the EU) were pointed out, as well as the few pending aspects. All confirmations and modifications are reflected in the shared document of the Steering Group containing the speakers and moderators, and in all the corresponding documents (annotated agenda, descriptions and files of each session), and are communicated promptly to the person of the Steering Group who leads the corresponding session.

It was indicated that the description of the session on conclusions is still pending, but that it only affects the Steering Group, and that the institutional opening and closing sessions are also in the process of confirming speakers and choreography. In response to the suggestion of having a representative of the Colombian youth civil society for the institutional closure, the members of the group suggested that it be valued and propose two people as a group.

The person(s) who will act as master of ceremonies have not yet been identified.

***Civil Society Forum Joint Declaration***

The draft Joint Declaration prepared by the group of volunteers and commented on by the rest of the members was shared. The current draft is too long, and will have to be worked on to synthesize it in 10-12 points, with an introduction and a closing, all in no more than a page and a half.

Possible ways to incorporate changes in the main messages of the sessions into the Declaration were discussed, and how to share it with participants to collect their input, including during the concluding session (e.g. through a form shared in a QR code, offering spaces for comments, etc.). The content and final format of the Declaration, as well as its appropriation by the Forum participants, is, in any case, the responsibility of the members of the Steering Group.

He was updated on the possibility of presenting the Joint Declaration at the Summit, indicating that there is no confirmation on this possibility or in what format, and that it will be the EU and CELAC who decide whether to include a civil society intervention in the agenda. If this were to happen, it would be an intervention of 2 or 3 minutes maximum. Therefore, the text of the Declaration must be sufficiently synthetic to be read in that short time.

While the Steering Group can propose the person to represent civil society at the Summit if permission is obtained, it was explained that the EU and CELAC will be the ones to decide whether to accept the proposed candidate. The members of the Group expressed their desire to be the ones to propose the person to represent them.

### ***Calendar schedule and methodology for preparing sessions***

The results of the consultations on the availability of moderators, speakers and rapporteurs to participate in the respective preparatory meetings for each session during the coming week were shared. Almost all sessions have clear options, except for two (Indigenous Peoples and Food Systems) that require a second consultation.

In the preparation meetings, a round of presentations will be made, the objectives of the session will be reviewed, the rundown will be worked on and adjusted to reflect the interventions of each panellist, the questions that will be asked, the choreography and the main messages. As discussed above, the rapporteurs of each session will need to make the connection between the main messages and the draft Joint Declaration.

### **3. Agreements**

The agreements reached were:

- The members of the Steering Group who will be rapporteurs for the ten sessions will identify during the preparatory meetings with the panelists up to two key messages from each session, and will transfer them to the group of volunteers drafting the Declaration.
- The more extensive conclusions of each session may be attached in an annex (format to be decided) to the text of the Declaration.
- The members of the Steering Group will assess and propose ways to share the draft Declaration and validate it with participants during the Forum.
- The members of the Steering Group will propose two people as representatives of civil society in the institutional closure, as well as the person who would participate in the Summit if admitted.
- It was agreed for the time being not to give a specific title to the Forum.

### **4. Next steps**

The following steps are agreed:

- Conclude and share the schedule of preparation meetings. Each rapporteur will participate in its session.
- Each rapporteur will contribute to the Joint Declaration the two key messages of the session
- Develop the Session Conclusions Description (TA PFD) for review at the next Steering Group meeting
- Steering Group shares proposal by civil society speakers for the institutional closure and a person for the Summit

- BIO short of all (100 words in Spanish)
- PFD TA shares with all descriptions of the current clean sessions and outlines, and those reviewed after each prep meeting.

The next meeting will take place on October 29, 2025 at 3 p.m. The draft of the Joint Declaration, the methodology for validating it and the choreography of the concluding session will be reviewed.

## **Participantes**

### ***Miembros del Grupo de Pilotaje***

1. International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Americas))
2. Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM)
3. COICA
4. Forus International
5. GIFE
6. GNDR
7. Juventudes Diversas por la Vida (Colombia)
8. La Coordinadora
9. RED UE-LAT
10. Transparency International
11. Ministry of Equality and Equity (Colombia)
12. European Union: DG. INTPA (European Commission)

### **Observers**

13. EU External Action Service (EEAS)

### **Technical Assistance**

- Policy Forum for Development (PFD)
- GOPA

### **Absences:**

14. Spanish Youth Council (CJE)/European Youth Forum
15. CSA / ITUC Américas
16. MESA de Articulación