

Civil Society Forum LAC-EU



REPORT

LAC-EU Civil Society Forum 2025

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Executive Summary

The [LAC-EU Civil Society Forum 2025](#), held in Santa Marta on 7-8 November, brought together 260 civil society representatives, including representatives of indigenous peoples and youth organisations, together with close to 100 institutional representatives from the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Forum's agenda, including the topics and methodology of the sessions, and the composition of the panels, was designed by a steering group selected from among Development Policy Forum (DPF) organisations with a mandate limited to agenda planning, in co-creation with the EU and Colombia, and to the elaboration and ratification of the Civil Society Joint Declaration (see Annex), which sets out the official recommendations drawn up by civil society at the Forum.

The event took place at a key moment for bi-regional partnership, in the run-up to the 4th CELAC-EU Summit, and put citizen participation at the heart of democracy, sustainable development and cooperation.

Main messages:

- There is an urgent need to transform development through horizontal cooperation that prioritises care, social justice, inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- There is a need to reform the international financial architecture, ensure direct access to finance for grassroots communities and organizations, and measure progress through multidimensional indicators of well-being, equity and participation.
- The digital transition, the green transition and environmental protection cannot leave anyone behind, recognising that indigenous peoples, women, people with disabilities and youth are key players.
- Freedom of expression, protection of human rights defenders and an enabling environment for civil society are fundamental requirements for strengthening democracy and the rule of law.
- The EU-LAC alliance will only be legitimate if it fosters genuine participation and translates promises into concrete action with transparency and added value for communities.

The following are the main messages of each of the ten thematic sessions:

Proprietary Environment for Civil Society: The reduction of civic space requires renewing social pacts, strengthening the protection of rights and ensuring an enabling environment based on meaningful participation, sustainable financing, horizontal alliances and effective monitoring and early warning mechanisms.

Financing for Sustainable Development: The Global Gateway strategy can only contribute to fair development if it is geared towards local well-being, supported by a more equitable and transparent international financial architecture, and ensures real participation of communities and civil society at all stages of investments.

Community Climate Resilience: Climate resilience is only effective when it is built from the communities, integrates prevention and adaptation into public policies and is supported by fair financing that recognizes historical responsibilities and protects the most vulnerable populations.

Digital transition: A just digital transition requires ensuring universal and meaningful connectivity, protecting rights and data, fostering inclusive governance and promoting digital literacy that enables all people to fully participate in society and harness technology for the common well-being.



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Organised crime: Organised crime undermines democracy and the rule of law; effective policies must therefore be comprehensive, preventive and cross-cutting, combining transparency, education, bi-regional cooperation and civil society protection measures to address both structural causes and infiltration into local institutions and economies.

Indigenous peoples: Bi-regional investments and cooperation should recognise indigenous peoples as strategic partners and respect their sovereignty. It is essential to ensure their full participation, respect for their ancestral knowledge and customary rights, and prior, free and informed consent. This approach promotes sustainability, community well-being and inclusive governance.

Food Systems and Zero Hunger: Food security requires a holistic approach that combines traditional knowledge, technological innovation and inclusive public policies. Young people, women and rural communities must be central actors in the creation of sustainable food systems. Food justice is only achieved when production and distribution respect rights, territory and the environment.

Bi-regional Pact for Care: Care should be recognized as a human right and professional work, integrating gender equity, inclusion and social co-responsibility. Its implementation requires intersectional policies that include women, migrants, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities. Linking care with climate action and socio-cultural transformation strengthens social cohesion and regional justice.

Inequalities and Social Cohesion: Reducing inequalities requires a people-centred, inclusive and intersectional approach that integrates health, education and social protection. Policies and projects must be horizontal, participatory and measure real impacts on communities. Redistribution of power and bi-regional cooperation are essential to building fairer and more inclusive societies.

Civil Society Participation: The defence of democracy and the rule of law requires a broad civic space, protected and with the full participation of all communities. Therefore, policies and investments must be people-centred, with a focus on human rights, gender, sustainability and social justice. It is essential to ensure sustainable financing, real access to decision-making, protection mechanisms and transparency in the use of resources.

The Joint Declaration of Civil Society (in Annex) includes the messages and recommendations agreed by the organizations.



Full report by session

Institutional opening

The moderator, **Félix Fernández-Shaw**, Director for Latin America, the Caribbean and Relations with All Overseas Countries and Territories, of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission, warmly welcomed all participants and opened the meeting by underlining the main objective of this Forum: reaffirm the centrality of the voice of civil society in the dialogue between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. He reiterated the need to encourage meaningful participation of underrepresented civil society organizations, such as youth associations, women's associations, indigenous communities and persons with disabilities.

Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio Mapy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia shared three key reflections on bi-regional dialogue. First, he stressed the importance of recognizing the shared humanity that unites Europe with Latin America and the Caribbean, whose relationship is no longer based exclusively on political or economic connections, but on a living network of common affections, responsibilities and learning. Secondly, the minister stressed the need for truly horizontal cooperation, noting that dialogue is key to the creation of fair cooperation that overcomes the historically asymmetric relations between the two regions and allows us to face global challenges such as climate change or forced migration. Finally, he affirmed that foreign policy cannot continue to be an exercise of elites, but must be built from below, with the active participation of women, indigenous peoples and youth.

Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, European Commission, stressed that in times of shrinking civic space, the European Union continues to consider dialogue and cooperation as the best approach to create a sustainable future for all. Lahbib underlined that there can be no meaningful and lasting change without addressing the root causes of fragilities and inequalities, and reiterated the obligation to put equality at the heart of all Global Gateway projects, in order to build more resilient societies.

Andrea Remes, representative of the Global Youth Forum, stressed that cooperation must be a living network of collaboration, where all voices count and communities receive the necessary tools to generate sustainable and replicable solutions in other contexts. Remes reaffirmed that youth and civil society must be co-authors of change, and that cooperation must be measured not only by indicators, but by transformed lives. Finally, Remes called for creating lasting participation structures, capable of transcending mandates and political changes.

Ensuring a Proprietary Environment for Civil Society: a condition for democracy, peace and sustainable development in the EU-LAC partnership

During this plenary session moderated by **Javier Azpur**, president of the National Association of Centers (ANC), the panel was invited to reflect on the dangers of shrinking civic space. Azpur emphasized the imperative for governments to take effective action to create a safe environment for civil society and human rights defenders.

Gustavo Adolfo Amaya, executive director of the Center for Training and Promotion of Democracy (CECADE, Red LAC, MODES), said that the world faces new challenges that require innovative solutions. In this context, it is urgent to establish new social and regional pacts that generate an effective response to wars, crime, hate speech and technological transformations, remembering that the citizen is sovereign and responsible for change.

Verónica González, member of the Board of Directors of the Network for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (REDI), focused her intervention around the situation of people with disabilities in Argentina. Underlining how people with disabilities are facing serious setbacks in rights, with barriers to health, employment, housing and protection from violence, González denounced the use of stigmatizing discourse, restrictive policies and serious discrimination and obstacles in reproductive and care services, among others.

Carla Álvarez, representative of the European Youth Forum, warned about legal uncertainty from the point of view of youth organisations. He stressed the importance of real legal and political recognition for young people, as well as sustainable and accessible funding in which cooperation goes beyond the mere economic contribution. Likewise, the need for a structured and permanent dialogue, which generates institutionalized and periodic spaces where young people are not just passive recipients. Youth organs must be independent and stable, as youth can transform power structures.

For her part, **Marta Ferrara**, member of the Executive Coordination of POJOAJU, Association of NGOs, observed that the creation of an enabling environment for civil society, not only implies absence of repression, but requires favorable public attitudes. Creating this environment is the joint responsibility of governments, the private sector and bilateral cooperation. Today, organizations are weakened by restrictive laws, surveillance, disinformation and funding crises.

Sandra Ferrer, director of the Coordination of Organizations for Development (CONCORD member) stressed that the exhaustion of the global order requires more horizontal, just and sustainable alliances that protect shared values and human rights. Civil society must have meaningful participation and access to flexible and durable funding to influence public policies. Binding clauses were called for in democratic agreements, transparency in initiatives such as Global Gateway and avoiding negative impacts on local societies.

Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General of DG INTPA, European Commission, responded to all these concerns by sharing the European Commission's point of view. Reiterating the European Commission's commitment to upholding the shared values of democracy and freedom, Ferran stressed that there are several systems that allow not only the support and funding of civil society, but also the monitoring of situations of repression to be able to intervene in advance. Among them, Ferran mentioned the surveillance system EU System for an Enabling Environment (EU SEE).

In the second part of the plenary session, panelists were invited to reflect on ways to reverse restrictions on freedom of political participation.

Gustavo Adolfo Amaya proposed the creation of dialogues between multiple actors and enhance synergies with points of basic and shared agenda in order to obtain financial support. Veronica Gonzalez reiterated the need to establish alliances and mechanisms of equal and fair cooperation. Carla Álvarez mentioned the right of young people to enjoy full citizenship, the strengthening of their role as democratic counterweights and the introduction of good practices of participatory cooperation. Marta Ferrara stressed the need to break paradigms and create new strategies to maintain participation and sustain a reinvented democracy, while Sandra Ferrer emphasized the importance of a civic space that allows early warning and rapid response, with information exchange and a bi-regional pact of care. Myriam Ferran stressed that projects must be inclusive, generate local sustainable jobs, create global networks and enable an agile monitoring and response system.

Suggestions for Promoting a Proprietary Environment for Civil Society:

- Promote equal and fair partnerships in cooperation and in the defence of rights, including those of persons with disabilities.
- Introduce binding democratic clauses and greater transparency in bi-regional agreements and initiatives, such as Global Gateway.
- Strengthen early warning and monitoring systems to anticipate and respond to restrictions on civic space.
- Ensure legal recognition, structured participation and sustainable funding for youth organisations.
- Ensure that cooperation projects are inclusive, generate sustainable local employment and have rapid response mechanisms.

Financing for Sustainable Development: towards a fair, equitable, participatory and transparent bi-regional agenda

Moderated by **María José Romero**, Policy and Lobbying Manager, EURODAD, the objective of this session was to review the Global Gateway strategy and its financial structure to identify opportunities and risks in social,

environmental and economic justice, ensuring that civil society participates in planning, monitoring and sustainability investments through access and accountability mechanisms.

Romero reiterated the instrumentalization by governments of systems of international cooperation, which become geopolitical tools or threats to authoritarian states. In this context, he asserted that public resources should not prioritize private profitability, but benefit local communities, be inclusive, sustainable and create added value to local well-being. Financing for development requires a fair and democratic international architecture that democratizes governance and supports progressive reforms.

According to **Gloria García-Parra**, Regional Director for Latin America, Oxfam International, revitalizing multilateralism is crucial to fostering the creation of more just and equal societies. There are pre-existing asymmetries between Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, which are aggravated by extractive companies and by the European green transition, financed through a climate bill that falls on South America. Therefore, development financing should not be imposed in the form of debt, but a bi-regional financial fiscal pact based on tax justice should be created. In this context, the bi-regional pact must be presented as a pact of justice, much more than mere aid or cooperation.

From row 0, **Javier García de la Oliva**, ActionAid International, intervened underlining the need to define real financing tools for development, which respond to deep inequalities and the increasingly severe effects of the climate crisis. He expressed the urgency of moving towards a new international financial system that guarantees fair, equitable and inclusive access to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to investments in essential public services (health, education and social protection) that generate equitable opportunities. In addition, it is essential to break the circle between debt and climate change, preventing countries from having to borrow on unfair terms and resorting to extractivism to pay.

Eleonora Betancur González, Director General of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC), Colombia, reaffirmed the need to reform the global financial architecture. Despite its structural inequalities that make Latin America and the Caribbean the most unequal region in terms of wealth distribution, the region receives less support for GDP-based criteria. It is therefore imperative to introduce multidimensional well-being indicators. In addition, cooperation should be more horizontal and innovative, combining financial resources with knowledge sharing. The EU, as the main donor, should promote sustainable financial instruments that strengthen accountability.

Reporting the point of view of the European Commission (DG. INTPA), **Félix Fernández-Shaw**, stated that one of the common priorities of Latin America and the EU is the decarbonisation and electrification of urban and interurban transport as a fair and clean way towards a better quality of life. The EU Europe is reinvesting in the region through technology training and support to indigenous communities for sustainable development. However, it must also protect its interests, as its companies compete with global players without the same environmental requirements.

Miguel Santibañez, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Chilean Association of Non-Governmental Organizations ACTION, argued that a significant part of public debt payments is linked to the effects of climate change. Debt and the climate crisis are closely linked: countries most affected by climate change must borrow in dollars to finance their adaptation, forcing them to rely on extractive industries that, in turn, exacerbate environmental problems. In addition, austerity limits investment in essential public services such as health and education, slowing the region's progress.

Alejandra Vargas, Country Manager, LATIMPACTO, highlighted the importance of a multi-stakeholder alliance that strengthens coordination between governments, civil society, development banks and philanthropy to mobilize resources and knowledge. He stressed the need for inclusive regional governance, involving local and indigenous communities. Philanthropy can play a catalytic role through patient and flexible capital that drives innovation and cooperation. The combination of philanthropic capital and development banks can reduce risks and attract private investment, multiplying the climate impact.

From row 0, **Diana Quimbai**, Country Director, Aid in Action, stressed that initiatives such as Global Gateway must recognize civil society as a key actor to deploy catalytic capital, as it is the one that identifies opportunities, accompanies entrepreneurs and articulates local alliances. He pointed out critical early financing gaps due to high risk and uncertain returns, proposing to boost the Boosting Opportunities instrument as seed capital

combined with technical accompaniment and public-private co-investment. He stressed that Global Gateway has the opportunity to close these gaps and give civil society a leading role in transformative initiatives. To this end, it called for the adoption of an impact-first approach, the design of flexible financial instruments for early stages and the creation of mechanisms for structured participation in all project planning and monitoring.

Jorge Coronado, member of the Board of Directors, LATINDADD (Latin American and Caribbean Network for Economic, Social and Climate Justice) also expressed concern about European financing methods in Latin America and the Caribbean, which according to him focuses on privatized sectors such as energy, water or telecommunications, reproducing market logics with low standards and corruption risks. He also mentioned the need to promote development with added value, strengthening environmental laws, transparency and citizen participation, and a political context of institutionalization and protection of civil society.

Ramiro López-Ghio, representative of the IDB Group (Inter-American Development Bank) in Colombia added that, in the context of European investments in Latin America, it is imperative to raise investment standards, guaranteeing transparency and protection to communities. Latin America and the Caribbean need investments that generate sustainable and inclusive development.

In the second part of the intervention, panelists called for bi-regional cooperation based on fiscal, climate and social justice. They agreed that the relationship between Europe and Latin America is still marked by asymmetries and lack of transparency, where the benefits of free trade do not always reach communities. Therefore, the need for the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda to reflect local interests, with effective feedback mechanisms and engagement with impact, was reiterated. At the same time, they maintained the imperative to protect labor and social rights, prevent the criminalization of human rights defenders and articulate diverse capitals for fair development.

Suggestions on Financing for Sustainable Development:

- Increase investment in essential public services (health, education, social protection) as a way to create real opportunities for women, indigenous peoples and historically excluded people.
- Reform the international financial architecture, incorporating multidimensional well-being criteria and guaranteeing fair, equitable and inclusive access to financing for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Ensure fairer financing conditions, avoiding indebtedness in dollars or with high rates that push countries towards extractivist models.
- Promote a bi-regional fiscal and financial pact based on tax justice, preventing development financing from adopting forms of debt that deepen inequalities.
- Raise European investment standards in the region, guaranteeing transparency, protection of communities and strengthening environmental laws and citizen participation.
- Adopt an impact first approach within Global Gateway, prioritising social, environmental and community impact through flexible financial instruments that cover early funding gaps and support hybrid models and social enterprises.
- Create mechanisms for structured participation in project planning and monitoring, together with flexible impact-oriented financial instruments, especially for early stages.

Community Climate Resilience: climate justice as a pillar of bi-regional cooperation

This panel, moderated by **Aura Elizabeth Rodríguez Bonilla**, director of Viva la Ciudadanía and technical secretary of the Colombian Platform for Human Rights, Democracy and Development, focused on showing local experiences of response to the climate crisis, and presenting good practices of transformation that can generate an evident impact on the most affected communities. In addition, the panel reiterated the importance of the concept of climate justice, as well as the need to propose principles for integrating climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction into the agendas of both regions.

Lidia Serrano, project coordinator, ACICAFOC, addressed the issue from the perspective of community resilience and adaptation based on ecosystems and ancestral knowledge. To build true climate resilience, a community planning process for conservation and development must be carried out, based on prior, free and informed consent. Second, create agroforestry systems and resilient farming practices to ensure food security.

It is also imperative to generate mechanisms for community compensation and, finally, to create spaces for inclusive governance. Serrano reiterated that there is no resilience without justice: Therefore, the processes must be participatory, respect local and ancestral knowledge and ensure that justice is distributive.

From the perspective of the European Commission, **Ana María de la Torre**, Programme Officer for South America, DG ECHO LAC, said that climate resilience must be an inclusive process of prevention, preparedness and recovery with a systemic vision that connects local communities and regional cooperation frameworks. Therefore, it is necessary to invest in risk analysis, sensitize citizens to promote a culture of prevention and risk management, and include communities in reconstruction, for the sustainability and effectiveness of interventions.

Olivia Chase, Senior Development Specialist, Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), addressed climate disasters from the perspective of Caribbean islands, with small populations and economies heavily dependent on tourism. Chase explained that these islands face great vulnerability to climate disasters that destroy their main source of income. In addition, crises increase their debt and affect their GDP, so it is essential to introduce new forms of financing for reconstruction, suspend interest payments, create climate mitigation funds and apply fair rates after disasters. Chase also advocated eliminating debts linked to recovery and encouraging loans that strengthen resilience.

James Trinder, International Climate Policy Coordinator, European Climate Action Network (CAN), stressed the importance of recognising the historical responsibility for climate change and demanding an equitable response in the joint agenda. He also stressed the importance of strengthening adaptive capacity in the face of climate change, which would involve not only increasing the budget for risk management and adaptation, but also ensuring access to water, food and health. Trinder warned that global climate governance remains too dependent on market solutions, making it imperative to build a global diplomatic architecture of climate resilience.

Finally, **Nelson Hernández**, a specialized professional from the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), presented the Colombian risk management policy, which is not limited to the response to climate disasters, but incorporates prevention. Risk management has a co-responsibility component, since it is built between the public, the private and the communities. Therefore, the principle of good governance implies participation.

Suggestions for promoting Community Climate Resilience:

- Promote agroforestry systems and resilient agriculture practices that strengthen food security in vulnerable communities.
- Invest in risk analysis and public awareness to promote a culture of risk prevention and management.
- Introduce new financing mechanisms for reconstruction and resilience, including suspension of interest payments, climate mitigation funds, and forgiveness or elimination of disaster-related debts.
- Increase resources for adaptation and risk management, ensuring access to water, food and health in contexts of climate crisis.

Digital transition: leaving no one behind in the digital transition

Session moderator **Fernanda Martins**, Director of Strategy and Advocacy, Multitudes Foundation, opened the panel by explaining that building a just digital transition requires open, pluralistic spaces committed to the common good. In a context of shrinking civic space, it is urgent to build a digital agenda that puts people and their rights at the centre. There is a need to erase the line between fundamental rights and digital rights, recognising their interdependence.

Olga Paz, Project Director, Colnodo, addressed the digital transition from digital security, highlighting that in Latin America and the Caribbean 40% of the population still does not have access to the internet, especially women, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, elderly and rural communities. He stressed that the internet is a facilitator of rights, but the lack of meaningful connectivity deepens social and economic inequalities. Closing the digital divide is essential to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which requires transforming telecommunication models and betting on innovative and sustainable strategies. She proposed community

models of connectivity, based on local collaboration and participation, and insisted that women should have an active role in the management, content creation and leadership of these networks.

During his speech, **Luis Elicier Cadenas**, executive director, Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks, warned about the deepening of the pre-existing inequalities that the digital revolution can entail, especially in social groups such as young people. In this case, the social gaps in the distribution of access to digital infrastructure are even more severe than the absence of physical schools, as it limits access to content and resources essential for learning. In this sense, society stratifies between those who have technological access and those who do not, affecting the formation of digital human capital. Therefore, it is essential to introduce a systemic vision that integrates connectivity, content generation and cooperation between actors, through cooperation, co-investment and co-financing mechanisms within inclusive governance models.

Marina Meira, Public Policy Coordinator on Digital Rights, also reiterated that the digital transition not only deepens existing inequalities, but worsens the socio-technical marginalization of entire social sectors, since the digital transition entails different risks for different social segments. For example, risks of abuse, misuse of data and commercial exploitation, access to inappropriate content, hate speech or dissemination of intimate images. In general, the lack of connectivity can exacerbate the social exclusion of already marginalised groups. For this reason, Meira proposed, among other measures, the standardization of data protection laws, the control of the veracity of information, greater transparency about the companies that develop the technologies and greater participation of civil society in the digital transition.

In the second part of the session, participants were divided into three tables, where they discussed the three key axes for a just digital transition: universal access and connectivity, data protection and security against forms of digital violence, and digital literacy and inclusion as pillars of social justice in the digital environment. Participants advocated for meaningful, sufficient and non-precarious connectivity, starting first with access to technology and social inclusion. In addition, they insisted on the need to educate the population not only to generate digital capacity and employment, but also to reinforce critical and philosophical thinking and to be able to use technology with a reflective look. Finally, they emphasized the potential that technology can bring in the framework of the fight against climate change.

Tips for leaving no one behind in the Digital Transition:

- Ensure universal and meaningful access to the internet, prioritizing women, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, rural communities and socially marginalized sectors.
- Foster community models of connectivity and inclusive governance, promoting local participation in administration, content creation and digital leadership.
- Establish clear data protection and digital security rules, including information veracity control, business transparency and digital violence prevention mechanisms.
- Promote digital literacy and inclusion, combining skills development, critical thinking and social awareness, so that technology contributes to well-being and social justice.

Organized Crime, Corruption and Democracy: bi-regional challenges for security and peace

Moderator **Ramiro Orias**, Director of Programs, Due Progress Foundation, opened the session underlining that understanding how organized crime is affecting the political systems of both regions has become a crucial challenge for democracies in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. In recent decades, the activities of organized crime have diversified and sophisticated, generating new criminal patterns that feed on the intrinsic corruption of governments. In addition, there is a growing penetration of crime into police systems. The weakening of democratic structures, due to this infiltration, raises the need to reconsider policies to combat organized crime.

Lilia Saul, investigative journalist, Organized Crime and Corruption Project (OCCRP), explained that the success of drug trafficking is due, among other factors, to the deep infiltration of organized crime into state structures. To support his thesis, Saul presented the 'Narcofiles' project, which showed that in Mexico, numerous officials were involved in drug trafficking and money laundering networks. He also pointed out that the Mexican authorities refused to hand over official documents of drug traffickers and to collaborate with the journalistic

investigation, demonstrating the lack of state cooperation aimed at protecting organized crime, given its deep insertion in the structures of political power.

For her part, anthropologist **Augusta Moreno Quant**, researcher, Peace and Reconciliation Foundation (PARES) also reiterated that state corruption is the main driver of organized crime, since it allows judicial impunity. Currently, criminal organizations invest in activities and front companies, both in Europe and South America, through which they not only launder resources, but also acquire institutional legitimacy and paramilitary force, which in many cases allows them to exercise control over certain regions. In various contexts, even the press indirectly contributes to giving legitimacy to these parastatal structures of organized crime.

Andrés Hernández, executive director, Transparency for Colombia, confirmed that institutional weakness facilitates the development of organized crime, generating a ground for its expansion. He also warned that one of the most worrying dimensions of the phenomenon is its transnational nature, since it affects different markets in different regions and reaches significant proportions. This represents an enormous challenge for democratic systems, among other reasons, due to the impact it has on reducing civic space, limiting access to public information and the control it exercises over the organs of exercise of power.

Liliana Ramírez Hinojosa, leader on Human Rights, addressed the problem from the perspective of forced recruitment that finds fertile ground in contexts of poverty and marginalization, especially among indigenous and vulnerable communities, pockets of victimization and instrumentalization. In these environments, the precariousness of access to resources transforms the connection with armed groups into an alternative to achieve a dignified life. For this reason, children are increasingly recruited into these informal and illegal work systems.

Abraham Ábrego, legal director of Cristosal, presented the case of the Savior, where the state uses violence as an instrument of repression of organized crime, avoiding addressing the true structural causes of crime, such as poverty and social exclusion. Therefore, policies of repression constitute an electoral and short-term response, which usually find acceptance in the population, which unconsciously assumes the risk of sacrificing democratic guarantees in the name of an apparent effective security policy.

Javier Samper Orgilés, Director EL PAcCTO 2.0 (EU Programme of Assistance against Organised Crime) explained that the diagnosis of the challenges facing macro and micro crime reveals a problem of scale and understanding: Macro criminality requires structured and coordinated responses, as it directly threatens the rule of law. This requires a broader articulation of public policy, integrating justice and security in all sectors, including those outside these areas, which must incorporate the prevention of organized crime in their daily work. The total infiltration of crime into institutions and the economy requires a transversal preventive approach in all public policy.

In the second part of the speech, the panelists were invited to reflect on the actions and strategies needed to strengthen transparency and accountability practices in the fight against organized crime.

Lilia Saul noted the importance of making information public, transparent and easily accessible in all countries, and for authorities to remove the veil of opacity surrounding many cases of organized crime. For her part, Augusta Moreno Quant, stressed the need for a security strategy that combines social and academic measures, respecting human rights and sovereignty. He also stressed the need for interdepartmental and bi-regional cooperation, and to place civil society as a central player in the processes of dialogue and prevention, guaranteeing its protection and security.

From the point of view of tracking money from illicit activities, Andrés Hernández pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation between authorities and the accountability of facilitators of corruption, such as banks, lawyers and auditors. He also warned of threats to human rights defenders and stressed that as long as organized crime continues to guarantee services, progress on the issue will be limited. From the perspective of Liliana Ramírez Hinojosa, it is a priority to develop public policies with an educational and preventive approach, rather than punitive. In addition, the participation of young people in the proposal of actions aimed at their well-being should be strengthened.

In conclusion, Ramiro Orias pointed out that insecurity is a multidimensional problem and warned that attacking only the base of organized crime does not affect the larger structures. He proposed that the EU discuss the use

of hate speech and the figure of the enemy as a strategy to make the country's problems invisible, noting that the use of terrorism as a tool to disqualify the opposition contributes to criminalization.

With respect to Javier Samper Orgilés, a comprehensive security approach is only effective if it is specifically applied against organized crime and political dialogue, data systems and regulations are interconnected. In addition, he warned that the weakness of institutions such as police and prosecutors limits any action.

Suggestions to fight Organized Crime and Corruption:

- Strengthen transparency and public access to information on organized crime activities and their financing, eliminating opacity at all levels.
- Develop preventive and comprehensive public policies that combine education, social welfare and youth participation to reduce vulnerability to organized crime.
- Guarantee the protection of civil society and human rights defenders, involving them in processes of prevention and monitoring of organized crime.
- Promote bi-regional and inter-institutional cooperation, including police, prosecution, data systems and academic bodies, to address the infiltration of crime into local institutions and economies.
- Hold corruption facilitators, such as banks, auditors and lawyers, accountable to prevent organized crime from using legal or economic structures to legitimize itself.

Indigenous Governance and Bi-Regional Democracy: EU-CELAC common agenda to Santa Marta and COP30

Moderated by **Fanny Kuiru Castro**, general coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), the thematic session addressed the objective of defining a joint proposal with the indigenous agenda, as well as recognizing indigenous peoples as strategic and fundamental partners in the EU-LAC alliance. In this context, the panellists redefined the Global Gateway framework as the Global Gateway for Good Living, which becomes an instrument that promotes the creation of a real link between the parties, overcoming donor and recipient logics and creating well-being and added value for the communities of both regions. From a climate change perspective, Fanny Kuiru Castro insisted that the EU and CELAC must make a global commitment to protect the Amazon region. For that reason, he presented the 80x30 initiative to protect 80% of the Amazon, highlighting that overcoming deforestation levels of 27% would lead to the point of no return. Indigenous peoples being the most affected by climate change, he emphasized the need to consider them strategic actors in the definition of public policies aimed at the integral restoration of the Amazon.

Hortencia Hidalgo, representative of the Abya Yala Indigenous Forum / Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (RMIB) addressed the issue from the perspective of indigenous governance systems themselves, which constitute the basis of a constitutive parity democracy that allows for self-determination, social, economic and cultural development. Hidalgo explained that in indigenous governance systems, decision-making is collective to maintain community harmony and resolve conflicts. Governance styles are based on customary usages, customs and rights, with authorities chosen by the community and oriented towards collective development. On the other hand, Hidalgo explained that indigenous governance must be based on an intersectional and intercultural approach, respecting the forms of self-determination of indigenous peoples. Decisions in public policy must reflect the needs of territories and local populations. Therefore, the knowledge of indigenous peoples should not only be valued at the same level of scientific knowledge, but extractivism activities should not be carried out without prior consultation of local indigenous populations.

From the point of view of **Anne-Gaël Bilhaut**, Representative for Ecuador and Colombia, Research Institute for Development (IRD), a fundamental axis of the 2030 Agenda is the willingness of countries to reaffirm the importance of leaving no one behind, and to consider local populations as sovereign partners in the face of shared crises, such as the climate crisis. For this reason, building genuine collaboration with indigenous peoples is essential to share knowledge and generate effective solutions. Horizontal cooperation requires integrating scientific and indigenous diplomacy, sharing decisional power and funding the co-authors of the change directly. To this end, these communities must be guaranteed legal, physical and financial security, in addition to

establishing peer dialogues, co-designing innovation projects and involving indigenous peoples in all phases of their lives, from conception to evaluation.

Delcy Medina, representative of the Guarani Autonomous Government Charagua Iyambae, with first-line experience in conservation of protected areas under indigenous authorities in the Chaco region, asked the EU for accompaniment to face the challenges of climate change through nature-friendly projects. Like other panelists, Medina stressed the importance of funding reaching local communities directly, so that they can manage resources with transparency, since indigenous autonomous governments have a consultation law that ensures free, informed and complete processes.

Luisa Fernanda Gallo, Cooperation Officer of the Delegation of the European Union to Colombia, explained how the Global Gateway approach, which combines investments in 'hard' and 'soft' infrastructure, breaks with vertical cooperation mechanisms, promoting the effective participation of civil society and indigenous peoples in all projects. The strategy strengthens local capacities and recognizes that civil society has a fundamental role to play in generating added value. It is based on principles of sustainability, equal partnerships and respect for ancestral knowledge and cultural diversity. Effective examples of projects in the Global Gateway framework of collaboration with civil society and indigenous communities include the creation of community internet networks in Colombia and collaboration in Barbados for the fight against sargassum.

In the framework of the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the Global Gateway approach, **Kiwar Maigua**, project coordinator at Fundación KISTH warned about the risks that these investments can entail. Among them, pollution and loss of control over resources, which requires direct participation of indigenous people in monitoring and mutually beneficial agreements. European projects must guarantee prior, free and informed consent, avoiding infringing rights for the gain of others.

In conclusion, from row 0, **Gina Tambini**, Representative in Colombia of the Pan American Health Organization, pointed out that indigenous peoples face serious health challenges, with higher rates of maternal mortality, infant mortality and suicide. He stressed the need to recognize their knowledge and create spaces to incorporate them into international cooperation. He stressed the importance of facilitating platforms for exchange and mutual support, and recalled that PAHO, through its indigenous health policy, is actively working to strengthen governance. He indicated that, in this context, it is imperative to jointly move towards health governance that fully includes indigenous peoples.

Suggestions to support Indigenous Governance:

- Ensure that projects include indigenous peoples from conception to evaluation, ensuring their direct and effective participation and respecting ancestral knowledge and indigenous governance systems in the design of policies and projects.
- Implement free, prior and informed consent in all interventions affecting indigenous territories or resources.
- Ensure that funding reaches communities directly, with transparency and local resource management.
- Strengthen the health, environmental and social governance of indigenous communities, including platforms for exchange and mutual support.

Sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems to eliminate hunger and achieve SDG 2 in the region

This session, moderated by **Danilo Salerno**, Regional Director Americas, International Cooperative Alliance-LAC aimed to strengthen intergenerational and intercultural dialogue among various actors to share experiences and good practices that promote food and nutrition security through an approach to human rights and environmental sustainability.

In the area of food security **Michela Espinosa**, senior official and coordinator of the area of Better Nutrition, FAO, explained that many indicators show that there is a decline in the quality of nutrition. Communities suffer not only from hunger, but also from obesity, micronutrient deficiency, or difficulty accessing a healthy and balanced diet. To address these problems, it is imperative to seek combined answers: with coherent monetary

and fiscal policies, economic reforms to rescue food culture and traditional knowledge and investment in rural development, quality education and affordable infrastructure, among other things.

Alejandra Claros Borda, Secretary General, CAF (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean) explained that CAF's strategy to food security focuses on identifying the major problems of the food system in Latin America and the Caribbean and working with communities, not for them, relying on institutions such as FAO and civil society. In this context, CAF seeks to rescue knowledge and food culture, which according to Claros Borda is in the hands of women and rural communities. In addition, a key focus is the promotion and development of infrastructure, such as roads and transport, to bring technology to rural areas and facilitate market access for rural products, strengthening the regional food system.

Silvia Becerra, Director of Training and Income Generation, Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia spoke of the measures employed by the Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia, such as working in alliances to reduce hunger from a comprehensive approach, which connects food with agrarian reform and access to land. Among the actions, he highlighted the redistribution of land to small producers, the restoration of degraded soils and the impulse to an agroecological transition that recovers the productive capacity of the country. He also stressed the importance of strengthening peasant organization and creating territories that protect and use the land in a sustainable way. Tackling the effects of climate change requires, he added, technical assistance, property management and improved agricultural planning. In these frameworks, the government actively articulates these measures with the European Union through trade agreements, financing and through approaches such as the European Green Deal, which, in Colombia, seeks to support food sustainability.

Sebastián Pedraza, president of the Steering Committee and coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, YPARD (Young professionals for agricultural development), explained the importance of the inclusion of young people in international agri-food architectures. In addition, he proposed to develop capacity projects with a technological approach, combining innovation with the traditional knowledge of the communities to create sustainable food systems. He also stressed the importance of agroecology being promoted from the same laws, and that young people are sensitized to the importance of consuming healthy and local products. He also introduced the concept of a planetary diet, which means promoting new types of consumption and that young people are central to this type of initiative.

Claudio Soumoulou, President, Fundación Nodos – Grupo Asociación de Cooperativas Argentinas, took the perspective of cooperative realities. According to him, the solution focuses on associativism. Cooperative work in the agricultural sector allows the creation of an ecosystem that takes into account the needs of producers, develops youth training initiative, and seeks to revive the cooperative culture and the valorization of the local product.

From the public it was recalled that hunger is not a fatality, but the result of capitalist economic models dominated by market logics that concentrate goods in a few hands. States must not only ensure access to water and land and build agri-food policies with a humane approach, but also recognize that food justice cannot be achieved while treaties favoring deforestation or land grabbing are signed.

Suggestions for promoting sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems to eliminate hunger and achieve SDG 2 in the region:

- Promote agroecology, associativism and cooperativism to strengthen local production and community resilience.
- Promote rural and logistics infrastructure that connects production with the market, ensuring access to healthy and sustainable food.
- Integrate traditional knowledge with technological innovation, promoting education and skills transfer in local communities.
- Implement public policies that ensure equitable access to land, water and natural resources, combating concentration and deforestation.
- Develop responsible consumption strategies, including the promotion of local and planetary diets, and raise awareness of their social and environmental impact.

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

Alberto Brunori, director of the EU-LAC Foundation, led this panel with the purpose of examining the Bi-regional Pact for Care and its implementation plan, evaluating the proposal from the perspective of civil society. According to Brunori, care must be a transversal axis and care work must be recognized professionally, also addressing the political violence faced by those who promote it.

The discussion was opened by **Christian Burgsmüller**, Head of Division Americas.1 (Regional Affairs) in the European External Action Service (EEAS) who congratulated civil society for having achieved such an important result as the definition of the Care Pact, which defined a victory for multilateralism. Burgsmüller said the EU, which is suffering from a major demographic crisis, can import several good practices from Latin America and the Caribbean. The role of caregivers is fundamental in both regions, so it is necessary to share knowledge and develop policies to protect care as a whole. The priority now is to translate the Pact for Care into effective action.

Eleonora Betancur, Director General of the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC), noted that civil society plays a key role in advancing the care agenda within CELAC-EU cooperation, promoting substantive progress in equity. The bi-regional pact serves as a bridge of dialogue and makes it possible to recognize care as a human right, but it cannot be effective if it does not address discrimination against migrant women and people with disabilities from an approach of equality and interdependence.

The results are achieved through partnerships, as transformations are not achieved in isolation. Bibiana **Aido Almagro**, UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, said that without sustainability there is no development or democracy. The commitment of the states should focus on the creation of a bilateral system that guarantees sufficient resources, direct financing and the reduction of tax privileges. However, both international organizations and civil society must protect the agenda to avoid its instrumentalization.

Ana Cristina González Vélez, co-founder of La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres, followed the discussion, explaining that gender inequalities are based on the sexual division of labor, where unpaid care overburdens women and limits their physical and reproductive autonomy, also affecting their sexual rights. She pointed out that feminist organizations, pioneers in putting care at the center of the debate, must remain active and included in all levels of implementation of the pact.

Olga Montúfar, president of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women with Disabilities LAC (REMIAD), stated that in the field of disability and indigenous communities, care becomes a political act and resistance. Referring to the bi-regional pact, he stressed the need to ensure full inclusion in the formulation of care policies and in the construction of the care systems to which they provide it. Therefore, he proposed creating care assessment bodies and investment funds to support the care economy, recalling that without resources this right is only in the discourse. Finally, she emphasized that investing in care is investing in social cohesion and real humanity, and that indigenous women are not passive beneficiaries, but drivers of change.

Josefina Sánchez, President of Cooperativa de Atencions Domésticos “Soltecha”, pointed out that, in Latin America, patriarchal social mandates assign the role of care to women, making the sexual division of labour more burdensome for them. In this context, it is essential to recognize care as a form of professional work. Promoting a more sustainable approach to care also means making women visible outside the formal system, and recognising that care sometimes limits access to the labour market.

The panel closed Ximena Torres, country representative in Colombia, Fundación Avina, who stressed the importance of co-responsibility and coherence by both parties that subscribe to the pact. He explained that it is imperative to approach care from its intersectionality since the concept of care is multidimensional. In this context, care is linked in an interconnected way with climate resistance. It is therefore essential to integrate climate action with care.

From row 0, **Natalia Moreno Salamanca**, director of Care in the Vice Ministry for Populations and Excluded Territories and Overcoming Poverty of Colombia stressed that the Care Pact is a legacy of the progressive governments of the region and that it must now be strengthened regionally to move towards a true society of care. He explained that Colombia, under the ‘World Power of Life’ plan, wonders how to care for human and non-human life, and who cares for those who care. That is why it created a National Care System based on three principles: recognize care as a human and autonomous right, guarantee dignified conditions for those who

care and promote collective care. This policy, which involves 15 ministries, recognizes the rights of both those who receive care and those who provide it, and affirms that care must also be community-based.

From the interventions of the public, the importance of linking the care agenda with sexual and reproductive rights was reaffirmed, guaranteeing the participation of people with disabilities and prioritizing the inclusion of historically marginalized groups, such as migrant women in precarious conditions. It is key to transversalize the intersectional perspective of care, promoting the co-responsibility of men through caring and non-violent masculinities, professionally recognizing care work and addressing its link with political violence and sociocultural transformation.

Suggestions for the operationalization of the Bi-regional Pact for Care:

- Ensure the representation of youth, women, people of African descent, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in forums and decision-making processes.
- Promote care society initiatives, including environmental protection and gender equity, as part of building sustainable societies.
- Recognize unpaid care work as strategic and central to democracy and social cohesion.
- Create investment funds and care valuation systems, ensuring sufficient resources for effective policies.
- Integrate the care agenda with climate action and sustainability, strengthening community resilience.
- Link care with sexual, reproductive rights and citizen participation, promoting sociocultural transformation and social cohesion.
- Promote social and male co-responsibility in caring tasks, reducing women's overload.

Social Cohesion and Inclusion in the face of Inequalities

The moderator, **Jessica Vidales Ferro**, coordinator of the Coalition for the Defense of the Rights of Refugee, Migrant and Displaced Populations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC RMD Coalition) opened the panel highlighting the challenges to build real social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean, in a context of humanitarian crisis marked by violence, displacement and inequality. He stressed the need to build fairer and more inclusive societies and called for strengthening bi-regional cooperation and the role of civil society in reducing inequalities.

Francisco Mantilero, member of the Steering Committee of Red Encuentro, identified that the problem facing the Latin American and Caribbean region today vis-à-vis the EU is a clear asymmetry of power: inequality eroding social cohesion and civil rights. Societies live a dissociation that is not only the engine of violence, but defines the way in which development models are built. The absence of a real will to build a common agenda is clear. It is therefore crucial to create conditions for participation that ensure an equitable and mutually beneficial development model.

Jared Ortiz González, executive director of Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, identified three pillars for the development of nations: investing in health, education and social protection. EU-LAC cooperation should consider the promotion of universal and high-quality health, inclusion and promotion of a strong education system, as well as investment in social protection mechanisms - such as pensions and unemployment insurance - that prevent exclusion and strengthen the advancement of society.

From the perspective of forced displacement, **José Ramón Ávila**, executive director of ASONOG (Association of Non-Governmental Organizations), called for the implementation of prevention measures. He recalled that migration, recognized as a human right, today becomes a phenomenon of survival in the face of precariousness and lack of employment space, climate change, violence and crime. In this context, Global Gateway has to be a catalyst for horizontal, universal and public cooperation, investing in local knowledge, assessing social and gender impact and promoting people-centred development.

Tania Sánchez, Executive Director, Women's Coordinator, addressed inequalities from a gender perspective, noting that it is not a sectoral problem, but a structural and transversal one, because it crosses the economy, access to land and resources and structures of international cooperation. According to Sánchez, the focus of the issue is inequality in the redistribution of power, the adjustment of which is necessary to build fairer and

more inclusive societies. In addition, he stressed that investment-planning processes have to centralize people at the center of public policy building.

Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General, DG INTPA, European Commission, reaffirmed the priority the EU gives to education and health under the Global Gateway as a measure to reduce inequalities. He reiterated the EU's commitment to designing projects with high social impact, ensuring inclusiveness and wider benefits for communities. Therefore, Myriam Ferran referred to the Inequality Marker, an indicator designed by the European Commission to measure the impact of each intervention using a scale of values, in order to verify that there is actually a concrete effect on the reduction of inequalities. He recalled the importance of developing horizontal projects, to ensure that in each sector there is a tangible impact on reducing inequalities.

From the audience **Sonia González Fuentes**, Coordinator of the Inclusive Societies program, from the EU explained how the program aims to enhance the social dimension of the Global Gateway agenda and contribute to the reduction of inequalities in the region, providing two concrete examples. In Mexico, supporting the creation of the National Park of Circular Economy of Tula, destined to become the main recycling center of the country and a reference of sustainability and environmental justice. The project works with grassroots waste pickers - mostly women in vulnerable situations and in informal conditions - to integrate them into social security systems and promote community care spaces with an intergenerational approach, articulated with the National Care System. In Uruguay, the EU accompanies the transition to green hydrogen, promoting participatory processes that strengthen the consultation of affected communities and their involvement from the beginning of the projects. In addition, it promotes the professionalization of care work and the creation of public-private partnerships that combine services and infrastructure, moving towards greater gender equality.

In the second part of the session, the moderator invited panelists to reflect on how Global Gateway and bi-regional initiatives can contribute to reducing inequalities. Panellists agreed on the importance of promoting horizontal development measures. For his part, Francisco Mantillaro stressed the urgency of building a dialogue that fosters diversity and inclusion, and of creating new management models that overcome current exclusionary systems. According to Jared Ortiz González, horizontality implies transcending the donor-recipient logic. In addition, to measure development, he proposed overcoming traditional indicators such as GDP and using multidimensional poverty indices applied to specific situations, such as access to health and education. Tania Sánchez reiterated the importance of the redistribution of power, direct financing to civil society and a fiscal transformation that has intersectional, progressive and inclusive criteria.

Suggestions to promote Social Cohesion and fight inequalities:

- Design horizontal and participatory projects, overcoming donor-recipient logic and prioritizing local impact.
- Promote education, health and universal social protection as pillars to reduce structural inequalities.
- Adopt development indicators beyond GDP, including metrics to better target funds towards reducing inequalities.
- Encourage the redistribution of power and progressive fiscal transformation, ensuring that benefits reach those most in need.
- Consider historical inequality and power asymmetries in the EU-LAC relationship, ensuring horizontal and equitable spaces for dialogue.
- Prioritize cooperation focused on people, not commercial interests, incorporating social, gender and environmental impact assessment.
- Do not separate the civic space agenda from the poverty reduction agenda.

Key Conclusions and Joint Statement

During this session, the members of the piloting group took the stage to summarize the discussions that took place in each of the panels and presented the text of the Joint Declaration of Civil Society, which includes the official recommendations of the Forum (see Annex).

Susana Eróstegui, executive director of the Bolivian Network for International Cooperation, representative of the Roundtable of National Associations and Networks of Latin America and the Caribbean (MESA), explained that, in defining the agenda, the pilot group decided to include a panel of conclusions before the closure of the

Forum, in order to obtain a more accurate analysis of the challenges facing civil society and to be able to define the subsequent steps. He explained that the analysis of the current context shows worrying trends: increasing authoritarianism, normalising restrictions on freedoms and distorting the autonomous and critical role of civil society. This instrumentalization limits their ability to influence public policies and weakens democratic responses. Therefore, the Forum must not only diagnose, but also equip itself with the capacity to react to the criminalization and closure of civic spaces. The final message should urge governments to recognize the essential role of civil society and to build strategic alliances that transform conditions of inequality and poverty.

João Figueiredo, Regional Manager for the Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), noted that civil society perceives a regression in its financing and that cooperation, including Official Development Assistance, must be renewed to protect civic space and human rights. He stressed the need to use development indicators beyond GDP and to incorporate social justice, fiscal justice and debt sustainability as foundations for social cohesion and peace. He expressed concern about investments such as Global Gateway when they prioritize geopolitical interests over community needs, calling for more transparency and participation. He insisted that civil society should be a strategic actor in alliances, not just a beneficiary. He concluded that any bi-regional policy requires binding clauses on rights and democracy, because without a living civil society no investment will produce equitable benefits.

Marie L'Hostis, advocacy coordinator, FORUS International, stressed that our societies depend on care work and that it is necessary to listen to each other in order to move forward. He stressed that, given the increase in inequalities and the closure of civic space, it is essential to change paradigms. He stressed the importance of working together at regional, national and local levels. He concluded that the Forum is an invitation to do more and better, developing new approaches that allow progress without leaving anyone behind.

Luciana Torchiaro, Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Transparency International (TI) focused on corruption, a cross-cutting theme across all panels. He explained that corruption has become a driver of organized crime in several regions and how these networks have penetrated democratic institutions. In many states, institutions are co-opted and stop responding to citizens to serve criminal organizations, forming networks between officials and criminal actors. These transnational macro criminal structures use technology, abuse the international financial system, launder money into the real economy and generate serious impacts on violence, the environment and vulnerable communities, including recruited children and trafficked women. Some state responses resort to violence, further restricting civic spaces. Therefore, the panel proposes a bi-regional, coordinated and multi-stakeholder strategy, based on data and fully respectful of human rights.

Carla Álvarez, representative of the European Youth Forum, spoke of how the digital transition was linked to the Forum's thread by its impact on increasing inequalities, as technology is not neutral and, without a human rights approach, can deepen existing gaps. It was highlighted that the lack of access to the internet affects rights such as education, work or public participation. This is why universal access, sustainable connectivity, data protection and critical digital literacy are needed. In addition, it is imperative to transform connectivity models towards community-based and co-responsible schemes between governments, civil society and the private sector.

Fanny Kuiru Castro, general coordinator, Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) stressed that indigenous peoples are political actors with rights of self-determination and self-governance, whose traditional knowledge must dialogue with science to face the climate crisis. With initiatives such as 30x30 and 80x25, they seek to conserve and restore Amazonian biodiversity by 2030. Their contribution is key to solving global problems and promoting equitable development. The Global Gateway can be a tool to support good living and strengthen the protection of their territories against extractivism.

Danilo Salerno, Regional Director Americas, International Cooperative Alliance-LAC, addressed the issue of food systems, a priority agenda in the region, and linked to the care agenda. Poverty and hunger had been reduced through integrated policies, inclusion and dialogue mechanisms, and efforts were being made to ensure healthy and nutritious food for all. The importance of indigenous and youth knowledge in food production and security is highlighted, with 2026 as the International Year of Farming Women as an opportunity.

João Figueiredo spoke again about climate justice, explaining that it combines three dimensions: distributive, procedural and recognition, addressing inequalities in the burden and benefits of climate change, participation in decisions and the inclusion of all knowledge. He recalled that building resilient societies requires

strengthening the participation of those on the front lines and enhancing the work of civil society. Global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda must be implemented locally, focusing investments on communities. Climate resilience should guide bi-regional cooperation, promoting social cohesion, democracy and conflict reduction. Inclusive risk management and investment protocols in climate science, research and intelligence are required.

In conclusion, **Inma Alonso Delgado**, responsible for EU-LAC Relations and Financing for Development, The Coordinator of Development Organizations, Spain (member of CONCORD) spoke of the importance of the work of civil society between a bi-regional summit and the next one. I highlight three key ideas to be able to enhance the effectiveness of civil society work: work in an articulated and horizontal manner to amplify results, convey proposals to States by ensuring that they meet their commitments, and prevent the declaration from being left on wet paper. It is proposed to create a bi-regional multi-stakeholder mechanism to follow up the agenda with the active participation of civil society. From the close of each summit, the agenda must be worked on immediately and in a coordinated manner until the next meeting.

Civil Society Participation

The moderator, **Sergio Chaparro**, coordinator of the Center for Law, Justice and Society Studies (Dejusticia), opened the panel by inviting panellists to reflect on the crisis of democracy and the rule of law, highlighting the essential role of civil society as a peace actor and pillar of just, inclusive and sustainable societies, as well as a promoter of development. In this context, Chaparro warned of the growing restrictions and financial cuts that prevent it from acting, and reiterated the need to present concrete proposals to the authorities to ensure their effective participation, sustainable financing and protection within the EU-CELAC bi-regional partnership.

Lucy Garrido, coordinator of the initiatives Consonant Dialogues, Isoquito and Open Cause, Articulation Feminist Marcosur (AFM), stressed that participation is synonymous with construction, and that it is imperative to establish a solid mechanism for civil society participation and monitoring of its activities. He stressed that civil society calls for the realization of a truly active, political, and absolutely democratic participation, which promotes a strong and responsible democracy.

Followed by **Magdalena Bordagorry**, Policy and Networks Coordinator, EU-LAT Network, who expressed concern about the shrinking civic space, both in Europe and Latin America, that threatens multilateralism and democratic space. Borgagorry explained that many countries in both regions are shifting towards authoritarianism, and it is critical that the civic space agenda go hand in hand with poverty reduction. In a context of global crisis, there are concerns that Europe will focus its agenda on security, trade and investment proposals that do not respect the principles of participation and sustainability. He therefore reiterated the importance of any European investment in the region involving local civil society with transparent consultation mechanisms.

Anna Ferreira coordinator of Youth Participation, CIVICUS (Global Network for Citizen Participation), identified the lack of investment in infrastructure for civil society as one of the causes of the economic-political crisis in countries such as Venezuela and stressed the role that young people can assume in the bi-regional pact. He recalled that, in many contexts, civil society is responsible for donating services where the state is rejected, but reiterated that it is not possible to talk about true participation without also including young people, who, at the moment, do not have access to institutional decision-making spaces.

Carlos Quirós, Strategic Planning Officer, ONCE Social Group, reiterated the role of civil society as a counterweight of the state, and explained that civil society has a direct representativeness, since it is involved in the change from personal involvement. Quirós recalled that, unfortunately, today the protection of civil society is no longer guaranteed and therefore, its representatives see their lives threatened.

Claudia Paz y Paz, Director of the Mexico and Central America Program, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), stressed the importance of creating an enabling environment as a fundamental budget for civil society participation. He explained that where states fail, it is imperative that international organizations introduce valid protection mechanisms. It is therefore essential, inter alia, that civil society has access to information and is fully involved in decision-making processes.

Nelson Javier Restrepo Arango, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia stressed that humanitarian diplomacy, human dignity and the exercise of human rights are the priority. Engaging communities by ensuring full and effective participation is critical, as they are also transformative of the territory and catalysts of change.

Marlene Holzner, Head of Unit for Local Authorities, Civil Society & Foundations, DG INTPA, European Commission, praised the crucial role of civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean as a catalyst for change and for its resilience in times of crisis. He highlighted the capacity of civil society in the region as exemplary, in building more inclusive and sustainable societies. In this context, he stressed that the EU reaffirms its strong support for civil society in the region, recognising its fundamental role in strengthening democracy and development. In addition, he mentioned the mechanisms of DG INTPA to consult civil society: at local level with EU Delegations through the Civil Society Roadmaps and in Brussels through regular meetings organised through the DFP, as well as the intention to continue and strengthen dialogue with the region.

During the session, the public also made several key recommendations to strengthen the Forum and ensure that it is truly participatory and democratic. First, the need to address the impact of the economic blockade and the lack of funding, which limits the work of civil society organizations in the region, was highlighted. Regarding environmental issues, an ecosystem approach was proposed, not anthropocentric, in the care of life. In addition, the institutions were urged to be more empathetic and supportive of the realities of Latin America and the Caribbean. The lack of balance in global agreements was underlined, particularly in relation to Europe's colonial history in the region, and it was called for dialogues to be translated into concrete actions, beyond commercial interests. Finally, an urgent call was made for political support in contexts of democratic crisis, especially with regard to the protection of women human rights defenders and children affected by violence and social exclusion.

Suggestions to enhance civic space:

- Full and representative participation: Ensure the inclusion of local communities, youth, women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in all decision-making and project planning processes.
- Protection and Sustained Financing: Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society, with regular funds, accessible and protected from legal attacks or restrictions.
- Person-centred cooperation: Prioritize cooperation that puts the human being and social justice at the centre, with a gender, environmental and human rights focus.
- Equity and horizontal dialogue: Overcome power asymmetries and ensure equitable negotiation spaces, incorporating historically underrepresented voices, such as the Caribbean and indigenous communities.
- Sustainability and care: Recognize unpaid care work and promote the care society as an axis of democracy, social cohesion and environmental protection.
- Transparency and accountability: Ensure that investments and projects have clear monitoring mechanisms, indicators beyond GDP and accountability in the use of resources, including assurances that funds are really earmarked for concrete changes and not for personal interests.

Institutional Closure

Institutional closure, facilitated by **Félix Fernández-Shaw**, DG. INTPA, European Commission, closed two days of discussions in the framework of the Civil Society Forum ALC-EU. Félix Fernández-Shaw recalled that bi-regional cooperation must be based on shared values, inclusion and constant dialogue between governments, civil society and international organizations.

Mauricio Jaramillo Jassir, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Government of Colombia, praised the fundamental role that Colombian civil society has played in pillars such as decarbonization and the green transition. In this context, he reiterated that politics cannot endure without the participation of civil society, and that its support and support must survive political cycles. He reaffirmed that the Colombian government believes in democracy, multilateralism and international law, but for this reason, it is possible to respond to the needs of civil society in a systematic way.

Gabriel Mato, Co-President of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (Euro Lat), EPP MEP, followed, also reaffirming the need to re-establish a permanent body for consultation with civil society and to address key issues such as migration, human rights and the fight against organised crime. The current geopolitical context encourages greater cooperation, based on shared values that should be reflected in the bi-regional pact. The EU, as a reliable partner, promotes equal relations and inclusive and sustainable trade.

Martín Vidal, Ambassador, Director General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, representative of the CELAC Troika, warned that the lack of credibility in the bureaucracy affects democracy, and that, without dialogue and clear alternatives, nationalisms and the law of the strongest could gain ground. In a threatened world, inclusive multilateralism, connected to everyday reality, and effective articulation between governments and civil society, is crucial. Each topic, such as social development, health and gender, must have a real impact and be transversal in all initiatives and work.

Gianpiero Leoncini, Executive Vice President, CAF, recalled that civil society plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency in development banks, collaborating in the design of public policies and institutional strengthening. Networks have been established with local governments to promote biodiversity, microenterprises and community development, both in the region and in the alliance with the EU. It recommended that investments should translate into real improvements for people's lives, covering areas such as climate, digitalisation and social cohesion, with a green approach.

João Figueiredo, Regional Head for the Americas and the Caribbean, Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), of the pilot group, took advantage of the session to reaffirm the key points of the Joint Declaration, including the recommendations of civil society to the EU and the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Olga Montúfar, president of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women with Disabilities (REMIAD), reaffirmed that cooperation between the EU and Latin America will only be legitimate if it reflects the diversity of their societies, including women, indigenous peoples, people of African descent and people with disabilities. It is necessary to establish a bi-regional alliance that puts human rights and democratic transparency at the centre of policies, ensuring an inclusive welfare society. Defending freedom of expression, judicial independence and the protection of journalists is essential to building trust. Therefore, a real commitment to monitoring and accountability mechanisms is required to ensure that promises are kept.

In conclusion, bi-regional cooperation must be based on shared values, inclusiveness and constant dialogue between governments, civil society and international bodies. Issues such as migration, security, organized crime, gender equality and social development should be mainstreamed in all initiatives. Civil society also acts as a guarantor in the management of funds, ensuring that the investment has a real impact on the lives of communities. Local networks and international alliances are vital for social cohesion, environmental protection and community resilience. Only through their active participation can sustainable, fair and inclusive development be built for the entire region.

Annex

LAC-EU Civil Society Joint Statement

LAC-EU Civil Society Forum | Santa Marta, 7-8 November 2025

1. Gathered at the Civil Society Forum of Latin American, Caribbean and the European Union in Santa Marta, Colombia, the organisations representing trade unions, networks, indigenous peoples, women, the LGTBIQ+ community, youth, cooperatives and non-profit entities, underscored the importance of the Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) recognising meaningful, inclusive, intergenerational and multisectoral participation as a condition for strengthening a just, democratic, sustainable and bi-regional partnership based on the United Nations Charter and human rights - which places people and communities at its centre, including rural, migrant, Afro-descendant, disabled and other historically excluded groups.

2. Faced with interconnected crises that threaten social, environmental and economic cohesion and deepen inequalities, poverty and the erosion of democratic spaces – including those affecting particularly the island States of the Caribbean, highly exposed to the climate crisis, and economic vulnerabilities – we reaffirm the value of peace and the essential role of civil society, youth and local governments as peace actors and democratic counterweights. We recall the character of LAC and the EU as regions that must remain free from war and all forms of violence. We call on the leaders participating in the 4th CELAC-EU Summit to assume ambitious and measurable commitments that strengthen horizontal, participatory and inclusive cooperation, grounded in transparency, social justice and sustainability.

3. We draw attention to the risks of weakening the rule of law and democratic institutions, as well as the shrinking civic space, disinformation and polarisation, which erode social cohesion. In line with the Escazú Agreement, we urge the guarantee of an enabling environment for the meaningful participation of civil society, defenders, journalists and the media, ensuring their independence, safety, legitimacy and sustainability. Likewise, we ask for accessible information and assistive technologies that ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities, along with transparency and concrete actions that strengthen democracy, political pluralism and the participation of civil society in public policies.

4. We stress that the 4th CELAC-EU Summit must reaffirm the commitment to climate justice, the self-determination and governance of Indigenous Peoples, rural, Afro-descendant and local communities, and to sustainable food, energy and education systems, biodiversity and community climate resilience. Priority must be given to direct, accessible and sustainable financing; to the repair and protection of territories, including early warning and action systems, and local risk management, aligned with the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement; to prevention of forced displacement associated with climate crises, as well as equitable access to land and water, and differentiated support for rural women and youth, peasant communities, indigenous people and people with disabilities. It is fundamental to strengthen public education systems and promote sovereign and sustainable food systems, fostering a circular agro-economy that values family farming, youth entrepreneurship in agriculture and community knowledge, guaranteeing active participation of civil society in the dialogue on food systems, in line with the SAN-CELAC 2030 Plan and SDG 2. We also call for the development of comprehensive data systems that strengthen evidence-based decision-making. It is vital to protect the living Amazon and other forest masses in the region, recognizing them as political and ethical priorities of CELAC States. All cooperation must guarantee legal security of territories, full Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decisions that affect them.

5. We believe it is necessary to redefine development beyond GDP, prioritizing the reduction of inequalities and the closing of financing gaps that hinder the SDGs. Social cohesion must be recognised as an indispensable condition to reverse inequalities, strengthen citizen trust and consolidate inclusive democracies through redistributive policies and rights-based social protection systems. We view with concern the cuts in international cooperation, humanitarian aid and Official Development Assistance (ODA), as well as the increase in military spending, whose resources should be allocated to bi-regional economic and social development. For this reason, we call for fulfilling ODA commitments, reaching 0.7% of GDP and improving its quality so that it is progressive, flexible and includes social and climate metrics, guaranteeing direct access to financing for local

CSOs. We also recognize the contributions of migrants to the economies of both regions, through remittances, labour and tax contributions. Bi-regional investment should be transparent and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Trade and investments will only be sustainable if they guarantee democracy, human rights and environmental protection. We call on the Heads of State and Government to adopt commitments – including trade agreements or mechanisms such as the Global Gateway or EU-Mercosur – that include binding clauses on human, labour and environmental rights; complaint mechanisms and participation of civil society as a strategic partner in their design and monitoring, even in multi-actor complementary partnerships involving private sector resources and philanthropies. The Global Gateway Agenda should not replace traditional ODA and should respond to the real priorities of communities, avoiding infrastructure-only approaches.

6. We reaffirm that without gender equality and the full economic, physical and political autonomy of women, girls, and youth in all their diversities, there is no democracy. We welcome as a starting point on the road to this substantive equality the adoption of the Bi-regional Pact for Care, and we demand the recognition of care as a human right, a global public good and a pillar of well-being; measures that guarantee support, and to eradicate all forms of patriarchal and gender-based violence; as well as the full participation of civil society in the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the Pact.

7. In times of digital transformation, we recall that technology is not neutral and, without a rights-based approach, it can deepen inequalities. Therefore, it is fundamental to incorporate rights, sustainability, accountability and democratic governance criteria into the LAC-EU Digital Alliance and the Digital Global Gateway. Affordable connectivity, universal and critical digital literacy and online security - especially for women, girls and persons with disabilities and rural communities- must be guaranteed, as well as the promotion of assistive technologies that drive inclusion.

8. Aware that organized crime and corruption threaten democracy and well-being, we must reinforce the bi-regional dialogue structures and advance towards more homogeneous, preventive and evidence-based public policies. We reiterate the need for strong institutions, accountability and transparency, as well as the strengthening of technical and technological capacities of public institutions to accelerate investigations and guarantee the rule of law. It is essential to protect journalists, prosecutors and human rights defenders who investigate and denounce complex cases, harmonise regulatory frameworks, regulate money laundering facilitators and guarantee transparent registers of ultimate beneficiaries. Faced with hybrid threats such as disinformation, cybercrime and criminalisation, a coordinated and effective response is required that puts human rights at the centre of any bi-regional action.

9. We reaffirm that social cohesion, equality, human rights, climate justice and participatory democracy are the pillars of the CELAC-EU strategic partnership. The 4th CELAC-EU Summit must assume commitments to mainstream the gender and intersectionality perspectives, eradicate all forms of violence, discrimination, racism, xenophobia and hate speech, promote the integration of persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants and displaced persons, and guarantee social, environmental, biodiversity and human rights safeguards in all bi-regional policies and investments. We recognize young people and children as strategic actors of democracy and sustainable development, whose role must be strengthened through education, decent employment, academic mobility and effective intergenerational participation. We urge States to strengthen civic space and effective inclusion of trade union and social movements, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant persons, refugees, migrants and displaced persons, persons with disabilities, and marginalised communities, and to guarantee rights – including access to decent work, decent housing, education, health, care and social protection – in the construction of democratic, just, sustainable and peaceful societies.

10. To ensure that these proposals are sustainable, the 4th CELAC-EU Summit must formalise a multi-stakeholder bi-regional monitoring and dialogue mechanism, with effective and accessible participation of organised civil society, trade unions, women's movements, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant, Caribbean and island and rural and disabled communities, local governments, academia, cooperatives and social economy enterprises, the private sector and other interested actors. It is recommended to strengthen and adapt the already existing spaces for civil society participation, guaranteeing their sustainability, inclusion and capacity to influence. Only with a strong and recognized citizen voice can legitimate, effective and transformative cooperation be built.

Civil society does not ask for space: it already occupies it, builds it and defends it. There is no development without rights, no justice without equality, no future without democracy.

Santa Marta, 8 November 2025

LAC-EU Civil Society Forum

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

ACCIÓN Asociación Chilena de ONGs
ACICAFOC: Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria en Centroamérica
Acodea
ActionAid
Alcaldía Municipal de Mahates (UMATA)
Alfombra Roja
Alianza de Organizaciones para la eficacia del Desarrollo (AOED-ALYC)
Alianza Global por los Derechos Humanos
Alianza Migrante
Alianza ONG
Aluna Minga.e.V.
ArteCultivos
Articulación Feminista Marcosur
ASICADH asociación internacional defensores de los derechos humanos
Asociación de Género por la Paridad
Asociación Centro de Capacitación y Promoción de la Democracia (CECADE)
Asociación ciudadana por los derechos humanos
Asociación Civil Pata Pila
Asociación Civil Razonar
Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer
Asociación de Trabajo Interdisciplinario
Asociación Nacional de Centros Perú
Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Orientadas al Desarrollo (ANONG)
Asociación por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos Taula por México
Ayuda en Acción
Broederlijk Delen
CAI - Conversas Associação Internacional
Campaña Brasileña por el Derecho a la Educación
Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación
CARE
Casa Neon Cunha
Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Argentina
Center for Engagement and Advocacy in the Americas (CEDA)
Centro de estudios de derecho, justicia y sociedad (Dejusticia)
Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina (CIPAF)
Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz)
Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos (CEDEAL)
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL)
CIMUNIDIS CHILE
Círculo de Políticas Ambientales
CISCSA - Ciudades Feministas
Ciudad Alternativa
Civil Rights Defenders
CLAC FAIRTRADE
CLACSO
Clima de Política
Climate Action Network América Latina (CANLA)
Climate Action Network Europe
Coalición LACRMD
Coalición Nacional de Mujeres Rurales, A. C.
Comisión de Apoyo a la Unidad y Reconciliación Comunitaria
Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)
Confederación General de Trabajadores del Perú (CGTP)
Conlactraho
Consejo de la Juventud de España
Consortio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca
Coordinación Alemana para los Derechos Humanos en México, (DMRKM)
Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)
Corporación Comunicación, Territorio y Resistencia
Corporación Viva la Ciudadanía
Cotidiano Mujer
Creación Positiva
Cristosal
DECA Equipo Pueblo
Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
Derechos Digitales
Diakonia Colombia
Diálogos Nacionales Esquel
Ecolsierra Export SAS BIC
Ecuamur
enlaces territoriales para la equidad de género
Erandi Aprende
European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
FECORACEN
Federación Internacional Fe y Alegría
FOAL
Foro Ciudadano para las relaciones CELAC-UE
Foro Indígena de Abya Yala - Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y El Caribe
Forum Solidaridad Perú
ForumCiv
Forus International
FP2030/CEMOPLAF
Fundación Agape en Colombia
Fundación Internet Bolivia
Fundación Multitudes
Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo (FUPAD)
Fundación para el Debido Proceso (DPLF)
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la mujer (FEIM)
Fundación Paso a Paso AC México
Fundación REDUBUNTU - Soy Porque Somos
Fundación Sembrando Esperanza (FUNDASE)
Fundación tiempo de cambios
FUNSALPRODESE
FUNSAREP
Ges Asociación Civil
GFLAC
Global Infancia
Grupo de Institutos, Fundações e Empresas (GIFE)

Grupo de Trabajo de la Sociedad Civil CELAC/UE
 Grupo Social ONCE
 Hivos
 Humanity & Inclusion
 Incidencia Feminista
 Incidencia Feminista Asociación Civil
 Institut de recherche pour le développement
 Instituto afrodescendiente para el estudio la investigación y el desarrollo
 Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración, AC (IMUMI)
 Instituto Popular de Capacitación - IPC
 International Cooperative Alliance - ACI Americas Region
 JUVENTUDES DIVERSAS POR LA VIDA
 Juventudes diversas por la vida (YSB COLOMBIA)
 La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo
 La Ruta del Clima
 LANPUD
 Latin America and The Caribbean Women's Network for Disaster Risk Reduction
 Mesa de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes de América Latina y El Caribe
 Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres
 Movilizadorio
 Movimiento Mujeres Luna Creciente
 Movimiento Por la Paz (MPDL)
 Movimiento Tzuk Kim-pop
 Nacionalidad Originario A'i Kofan del Ecuador - NOA'IKE
 Observatorio de los derechos Sexuales y reproductivos de las personas con discapacidad (ODISEX), Perú
 Oficina Ecueménica por la Paz y la Justicia e.V. (Alemania)
 OIKOS Cooperación y Desarrollo ONGD
 OIVA | ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL VALORAMOS EL AMBIENTE
 Olof Palme International Center
 ONG ALLATRA MIS COLOMBIA
 ONG Amaranta
 Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo integral de Honduras
 Organización de Colombianos Refugiados en Chile (OCORH)
 OXFAM
 Pacta Serenada e. V.
 Pater Ahlbrinck Stichting
 Plataforma Colombiana de Derechos Humanos Democracia y Desarrollo
 Plataforma de Acción Cívica Centroamericana, PACC.
 POJOAJU
 Progetto Sud
 PROPOSITO PERU Marushka Chocobar
 Protección Internacional Mesoamérica
 Red de Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir de LAC
 Red de Coaliciones Sur defendiendo los derechos de niñas, niños y adolescentes en Latinoamérica
 Red de defensoras del ambiente y el buen vivir de Argentina
 Red de Mujeres Amazónicas
 Red de mujeres indígenas y afrodescendientes con discapacidad de ALC
 Red Ecofeminista Lac
 Red Ecolsierra
 Red encuentro (encuentro de entidades no gubernamentales para el desarrollo)
 Red EU-LAT
 Red Europea ODHACO (Oficina Internacional Derechos Humanos - Acción Colombia)
 Red Internacional de Diplomacia Feminista por la Paz
 Red Jubileo Sur
 Red juvenil de Mujeres Chocoanas
 Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica, Social y Climática
 LATINDADD
 Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia - RedLAD
 Red Mujer y Habitat - LAC
 Red Nacional de Mujeres de Colombia
 Red por los derechos de las personas con discapacidad Redi
 Red sin fronteras RSF
 RedClara
 Redes Chaco
 Soldepaz.Pachakuti
 SOLIDAR
 Sonando Asociación Civil
 SwTI - Street work Training Instituto
 Tamukke Feminist
 TEDIC
 The Center for Non-Violence, Research and Development
 The Millennials Movement
 Tierraviva a los Pueblos Indígenas del Chaco
 Transparencia por Colombia
 Transparency International
 Trócaire
 UN/EU Youth Advisory Group
 Unidad de organizaciones Afrocaucanas
 Unión de Trabajadores del Llano (Plataforma Colombiana de derechos humanos democracia y desarrollo)
 Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos
 Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social (UNITAS)
 Unión Venezolana en Perú
 Universidad de la Rioja España
 Venezolanos En Barranquilla
 UNIR
 WINGS
 WSM
 WWF LAC
 Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)
 Youth Sounding Board Costa Rica
 YPARD