

European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean
Multi-actor Dialogue Forum
Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion

Organiser: EU-LAC Foundation

Co-organiser: School of International Relations, National University, Costa Rica

Venue: Campus Benjamín Núñez, National University, Costa Rica (UNA), San José, Costa Rica

Date: 4 October 2023

The “**Multi-actor Dialogue Forum: Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion**” aims to bring together leaders from civil society organisations (CSO), academia, international organisations, and government in order to communicate the results of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), follow-up its priorities and commitments, and think on the implementation of mechanisms for bi-regional partnerships and cooperation policies with the participation of CSO. Specifically, the Forum will follow-up the agreements of the EU-CELAC Summit in the fields of Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion. These issues will be addressed with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and knowledge societies.

The Multi-actor Dialogue Forum will take place on 4 October 2023, in San José, Costa Rica. The Forum is a high-level event that will assemble civil society actors and leaders who participated in the EU-LAC thematic Fora and the Think Tank Meetings organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in the first semester of 2023, as preparation to the EU-CELAC Summit. In addition, CSO representatives and young leaders who participated in the “EU-LAC Forum: Partners in Change”, which took place on 13-14 July 2023 in Brussel, Belgium will be invited. The Multi-Actor Dialogue Forum will also be attended by experts from international organisations, high-level governmental representatives from the EU and CELAC, and leaders from the private and labour sectors.

1. Background and Rationale

The partnership between the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries is based on close historical and cultural ties as well as on shared values and aspirations, such as commitment to democracy, human rights, and the aim of building inclusive and sustainable societies. Over the years, both regions have progressively built a relationship based on mutual respect and open dialogue. A bi-regional strategic partnership, culminating in periodic bi-regional summits of Heads of State and Government, was established in 1999. The CELAC, an inter-governmental mechanism for political dialogue, was formally established in December 2011. Successive bi-regional summits have marked the continued intensification of political dialogue and progress on jointly addressing a wide range of issues, including climate change, migration, the fight against illicit drugs, the promotion of human rights, education, cultural issues and cooperation in the fields of science and technology.

In 2010 the EU-LAC Foundation was established by decision of the Heads of State and Government of both regions and has been operating as an instrument to promote the bi-regional partnership since 2011 in the city of Hamburg. Made up of the 60 countries of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the European Union itself, for a total of 61 members, the Foundation became an international intergovernmental organisation in May 2019 with the entry into force of its Constitutive Agreement.

Throughout its 12 years of existence, the Foundation has contributed to strengthening the capacity of its stakeholders to engage in and promote bi-regional policy dialogue. In this regard, one of the Foundation's mandates is to foster bi-regional dialogue among agents of civil society from the EU and LAC. Therefore, within its thematic work areas, the Foundation has been active in developing its relations with civil society organisations (CSO), including academic institutions, and supporting the collaboration and the consolidation of networks in both regions.

1.1. Civil Society Dialogue in preparation to the Third EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government

The resumption of high-level political dialogue between the EU and LAC from 2020¹, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, made it possible to lay the foundations for the third EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government in the second half of 2023, during Spain's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

In preparation for the third EU-CELAC Summit, the EU-LAC Foundation organised four thematic Fora, which aimed to bring together relevant societal actors, policymakers, and international organisations to discuss challenges and opportunities for the EU-LAC strategic partnership. The EU-LAC thematic fora included: the [EU-LAC Forum of Journalist](#) held on 23-24 March 2023 in Stockholm, Sweden, the [Knowledge Forum](#) held on 24-25 April 2023 in Montevideo, Uruguay, the [Gender Equality Forum](#), held on 11-12 May 2023 in Berlin, Germany, and the [Just Transitions Forum](#) held on 15-16 May 2023 in Barcelona, Spain. In addition, heading to the EU-CELAC Summit, the Foundation organised a EU-LAC [Think Tank's meeting](#), which took place on 3-4 April 2023 in Madrid, and an [International Organisations'](#) meeting held on 2 June 2023 in Salamanca, Spain.²

The conclusions, contributions, and recommendations from the EU-LAC thematic Fora to the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, were presented in the Panel "[Partnerships and Multi-Stakeholders' Engagements: Democracy, Knowledge, Gender Equality and Just Transitions](#)" at the "[EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners in Change](#)" organised by the European Union with the support of a Steering Group of CSO from LAC and the EU, which was held days prior the Summit, on 13-14 July 2023, in Brussels, Belgium. The main recommendations presented at the Panel are outlined below:

¹ Informal Ministerial Meeting (Berlin, 2020); EU-LAC Leader's meeting (2021); Visits of EU high level authorities to LAC (2021-2022).

² All the activities organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in preparation for the third EU-CELAC Summit can be found here: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/iii-eu-celac-summit-2023>

Knowledge Forum ³

- In the area of *cooperation in science, technology, and innovation*, participants recommended to improve the dissemination and awareness of existing initiatives and opportunities in R&D at the bi-regional level. Additionally, it was suggested that bi-regional cooperation should contribute to the budding of regional integration in scientific and technological systems. The importance of the 'Dialogue of knowledges' in the development process of a strategic framework linked to local needs and livelihoods was emphasised. In addition, the imperative of fostering further collaboration with local academic institutions, industry, and political structures was stated. Simultaneously, the necessity of positive evaluations for open access publications as well as the facilitation of access to such to LAC academic institutions was remarked. Furthermore, the Forum recommended the study of shared challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, digital transformation, democracy, and the rule of law, as an opportunity for collaboration.
- Regarding the 'Joint Initiative of Research and Innovation Initiative' (JIRI), it was suggested that the three pillars of researcher mobility, global challenges, and innovation be strengthened with an action plan and provided with funding, taking the working group on the research infrastructure pillar as an example. Likewise, it was proposed to establish a technical secretariat to follow up on the commitments made at the JIRI-SOM meetings and to strengthen coordination between the four pillars, for instance through regular webinars and dialogues.
- In the thematic line towards a Common Area of Higher Education, a call was made to the EU and CELAC Heads of States to establish an institutional framework for a Common Higher Education Area with key principles, mutual trust, inclusion, and allocation of financial resources, building on what already exists. The importance of innovation diplomacy was addressed, stating the necessity to promote scientific cooperation, establish multi-sectoral dialogues to promote scientific cooperation, and enhance public-private partnerships with the involvement of various actors. Finally, the Forum representatives advocated for an EU-CELAC Global Sustainable Future by improving institutional capacity-building in prioritised areas; active participation of stakeholders; and strengthening Higher Education networks and associations that provide spaces to articulate the voices of academic communities from both regions with respect to territorial and geographical representativeness, gender equality, cultural and linguistic diversity.

Gender Equality Forum ⁴

- The EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum discussed three main thematic lines. First, *Bi-regional cooperation in the realm of gender equality*. For this line the promotion of a reflective dialogue for the construction of more symmetrical, horizontal, supportive, and participatory cooperation agendas, was stressed. Likewise, the importance of working

³ EU-LAC Knowledge Forum Report: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/report-eu-lac-knowledge-forum>

⁴ EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum Report: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/report-eu-lac-gender-equality-forum>

jointly towards a paradigm shift to conceive of gender equality as a society-wide issue and not a women's issue was emphasised.

- Secondly, the matter of *overcoming economic and social inequalities* was addressed. To achieve the latter, a call was made to the EU and CELAC Heads of States for a Bi-regional Pact for Care, in compliance with the European Care Strategy and the Buenos Aires Commitment. The Forum recommendations also emphasised the importance of the promotion of access to health systems, especially sexual and reproductive health, and family planning services. In this line, the importance of promoting equal participation in the economies with affirmative actions in areas such as land rights was highlighted.
- Finally, *the necessity of acting on climate change* was addressed. It was recommended to foster policies and programmes that holistically address the environment, including the climate and nature crisis, biodiversity losses and mass species extinctions, threats to food sovereignty and differentiated social and economic impacts. It was also suggested to create funding mechanisms to address the intersectionality of environment and gender issues; to establish national gender and climate change working groups; and to strengthen the capacities of decision-makers so that successful experiences in gender and environment become national policies and that these can be adopted in local agendas, among others.

Just Transitions Forum ⁵

- The EU-LAC Just Transitions Forum followed three main areas: climate change mitigation and adaptation, just energy transition, and inclusive digital transformation. Firstly, concerning *climate change*, the necessity of improving data collection to better measure the social and economic costs of climate change was addressed. Additionally, there was a call to increase climate finance for adaptation to reduce the region's vulnerability to climate-related impacts. Moreover, strategies recommended to address the financing needs for climate change adaptation and mitigation included promoting debt-for-climate finance swap mechanisms, tackling tax evasion, and ending fossil fuel subsidies, all also aimed at avoiding the exacerbation of the debt crisis. Another crucial aspect discussed was fostering EU-LAC bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on the implementation of green measures, such as the Carbon-Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). In this context, a bi-regional dialogue was recommended, as well as ensuring that the EU provides positive incentives and financial contributions to facilitate the compliance of LAC stakeholders, especially small producers.
- In the area of *energy transition*, the main recommendations were, first, to prioritise energy cooperation that promotes value-added production in LAC. It is essential for LAC stakeholders to proactively work towards ensuring fair and balanced agreements that facilitate technology transfer and enable LAC to participate not only in the extraction of mineral and other natural resources but also in value-added production. Secondly, the need to develop robust mechanisms and regulations to prevent and mitigate socio-environmental harms linked to the extraction of critical minerals was highlighted. Finally,

⁵ EU-LAC Just Transitions Forum Report: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/executive-report-eu-lac-just-transitions-forum>

there was a call to the EU-CELAC Head of States and Governments to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, including the guarantee of free, prior, and informed consent on mining and energy projects.

- Finally, regarding *inclusive digital transformations*, the recommendations revolved around several key aspects. First, there was a call to invest in technological infrastructure and connectivity, with priority in rural areas and vulnerable populations in LAC. Addressing the impact of the pandemic on education, to ensure access to remedial education for those who were deprived of learning opportunities during this time in LAC was demanded. In addition, there was an emphasis on strengthening teacher training in technology, pedagogy, and digital skills, while promoting gender equality and socio-emotional inclusion. Moreover, the importance of fostering cooperation between LAC and the EU to close the digital divide was highlighted. There was a recognition of the necessity to establish adequate regulatory and legal frameworks in LAC concerning personal data protection and remote work regulation. Finally, it was recommended to promote transparency and accountability through digitization and improve coordination between civil society actors and decision-makers by generating formal spaces for dialogue.

The recommendations presented at the **Panel “Partnerships and Multi-Stakeholders’ Engagements: Democracy, Knowledge, Gender Equality and Just Transitions”** coincided with several of the recommendations formulated in the **Declaration of CSO** that participated in the **“EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners in Change.”**⁶

The CSO Declaration put forward ten recommendations. The first six recommendations focused on safeguarding the well-being of individuals, promoting equality, and ensuring overall access to rights. Concerning gender equality there was a call to apply a decolonial, intersectional, and feminist approach around the EU-CELAC partnership. Additionally, the promotion of a bi-regional Pact for Care, drawing inspiration from the European Care Strategy and the Buenos Aires Declaration, was emphasised. Moreover, the importance of implementing of legal frameworks that allow real participation from civil society was highlighted, alongside the pursuit of people-centric development to contribute to the reduction of inequalities in LAC. In addition, there was a call for addressing the migration crisis and finding ways to protect and provide increasing legal and safe avenues of protection for migrants while expanding options for regular migration. Lastly, the search for peace, security, justice, and the fight against both corruption and organised crime in the relationship's agenda was underscored.

The last four recommendations had a focus on the development of capabilities and the importance of just transitions in LAC. In terms of digital transformation, it was emphasised that regulatory frameworks and public policies should address the digital divide and promote equal access to technology, including measures that guarantee accessibility, participation and universal design, while protecting the digital rights of all citizens. Concerning green transitions, it was recommended

⁶ The “Declaration of Participating Civil Society and Trade Union Organisations, Networks and Platforms from Trade Union Organisations, Networks and Platforms from Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union participating in the EU-LAC Forum (Brussels, 13-14 July 2023)” can be found at: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/document/64fa7c83-bb14-412f-8787-5d7f7ed43dd3_en

to increase and make more flexible financing for a just energy transition, strengthen the adaptation of peoples, workers, and ecosystems while respecting human rights, and promote access of vulnerable communities. In the domain of education and skills, it was highlighted that the partnership should achieve bi-regional collaboration on quality, non-discriminatory education, and to democratise the use of technology. Lastly, there was a strong emphasis on the importance of implementing impact assessments for Global Gateway projects.

In addition, as result of the **“Youth Day”** held in the framework of the **“EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners in Change”**, twelve recommendations were put forward by youth leaders and representatives.⁷ Among the highlights of the proposals was the creation of a network of youth from the EU and LAC regions, aimed at the exchange of experiences, and advocating for dialogue opportunities. In addition, political participation and advocacy of children and young people was emphasized, with a focus on co-creation of public policies. A call for capacity building and education for democracy was made, as well as the need for mechanisms for intersectional youth participation. The importance of both connecting rural and urban youth and preventing stigmatisation and criminalisation of youth were also underscored.

In terms of economic empowerment, the necessity to facilitate access to funding and skills development for youth organizations, entrepreneurship, and businesses was made. Training and technical institutional support must be also provided to support youth to be self-sustaining. The promotion of a local knowledge economy, encouraging creativity, and supporting initiatives in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) were also part of the recommendations. Additionally, the group called for the insurance of access to quality and intercultural education, both formal and popular; addressing the necessity to develop individual and contextual capacities for all groups. The latter, according to the participants, will only be possible if improvements in education investment and transparency and accountability of information are made.

Finally with respect to the green transition, youth leaders recommended to collaborate and promote accountability, oversight, and climate justice by improving environmental standards and monitoring processes related to the triple transition, ensuring intergenerational participation in the creation of a clear plan for carbon neutrality, mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, restoration, and resilience in communities and ecosystems at its core. They also emphasised that the latter should take into account the common and differentiated responsibilities, especially in the most vulnerable communities, including indigenous, afro-descendant, migrant and refugee populations, among others.

1.2. Priorities and Commitments of the Third EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government

The third EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in Brussels on 17-18 July 2023. It was a historic occasion that brought together European, Latin American and Caribbean leaders to renew and strengthen relations between the two regions after eight years of absence of bi-regional dialogue at the highest political level. The summit was held under the theme

⁷ The “EU-LAC Youth Day Recommendations” can be found at: <https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/eu-lac-forum-2023-youth-recommendations-en-es.pdf>

"Renewing the bi-regional partnership to strengthen peace and sustainable development". As result of the EU-CELAC Summit, the Heads of State and Government published a joint Declaration⁸ and an EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023-2025 for bi-regional high-level events⁹.

Some of the recommendations from civil society actors are reflected in the EU-CELAC Summit Declaration, particularly the ones related to **Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion**.

With respect to a **Just Green Transition** the EU-CELAC Head of States and Government stated that they will cooperate to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, according to the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and committed to strengthening their bi-regional cooperation for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.¹⁰ The EU-CELAC States also agreed to strengthen their collaboration in international financial institutions and multilateral organisations for a fair, inclusive, and effective multilateral system that allocates appropriate resources to sustainable development.¹¹ Moreover, they stressed the importance to fulfil the commitment by developed countries to mobilise USD 100 billion per year for climate finance to support developing countries, and to double adaptation finance by 2025; and they welcomed the establishment of funding arrangements for Loss and Damage.¹² In addition, the EU-CELAC Heads of States and Government committed to leading a transformational shift towards a sustainable economy and to reforming and progressively eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies.¹³ They also encouraged actions and commitments for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the oceans; and recognised the impact that climate change is having particularly on the most vulnerable countries, including Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean.¹⁴ Finally, the EU-CELAC States recognised the importance of an open and fair trade based on internationally agreed rules, and the importance of investment and cooperation for a closer integration in clean energy supply chains, including critical raw materials and technology transfer.¹⁵

In the area of **Inclusive Digital Transformation**, the EU-CELAC Head of States and Government stressed the importance of cooperating to promote a responsible human-centric, values-based and inclusive model of digital transformation that protects privacy as a fundamental right, increases digital connectivity and cybersecurity, aims at closing digital gaps, fosters the trustworthy development and use of Artificial Intelligence, and contributes to trust in the digital economy. In addition, the EU-CELAC states welcomed the work of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation.¹⁶

⁸ The "Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit 2023" can be found at:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2023-07/st12000.en23.pdf>

⁹ The "EU-CELAC ROADMAP 2023 to 2025" can be found at:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2023-07/eu-celac-roadmap2023-25.pdf>

¹⁰ See paragraphs 3, 17 and 19 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹¹ See paragraph 18 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹² See paragraphs 23 and 26 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹³ See paragraph 25 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹⁴ See paragraphs 20 and 22 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹⁵ See paragraph 31 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹⁶ See paragraph 29 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

Fundamental aspects related to **Social Cohesion** were also addressed in the EU-CELAC Declaration. First, the EU-CELAC States reaffirmed their shared values upon which their partnership is based: resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, the promotion, protection and respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, democracy, including free and fair, inclusive, transparent and credible elections and media freedom, inclusive multilateralism and international cooperation, based on the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and International Law.¹⁷ Furthermore, the EU-CELAC Head of States and Government committed to “*fighting multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and gender based violence, and to promoting fundamental labour principles and rights and ILO core labour standards and conventions of decent work for all, gender equality, full and equal representation and participation of all women and girls in decision-making processes, rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, rights of the child, human rights defenders, and the rights of persons in situations of vulnerability and people of African descent,*” and to strengthening the bi-regional cooperation for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁸ There are other topics that are of particular importance to civil society, such as integral care systems or cooperation in higher education, which were not explicitly mentioned in the Declaration, but which, however, can be followed-up, with reference to other statements and ongoing processes related to social cohesion.

As a transversal aspect, it should be noted that the EU-CELAC Head of States and Government recognised the **potential contribution of the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda**, which aims to address investment gaps in line with the common priorities of the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, with the goal of mobilising both private capital and public funding for sustainable development, including digital transformation, education, health infrastructures, energy production, environmental perspectives, raw materials and local value chains.¹⁹

Following the EU-CELAC Summit, the EU-LAC Foundation has committed to organise a **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** to communicate and monitor the priorities and commitments of the EU-CELAC Declaration, as well as to discuss mechanisms for their implementation. The Forum is a high-level event that was highlighted in “EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023 to 2025” and will bring together leaders and experts from civil society, governments, international organizations, as well as private and labour sectors. It will be held on 4 October 2023 at the National University (UNA), Costa Rica.

The **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** is organised back-to-back with the [I Ministerial Summit on environmental sustainability](#), scheduled to take place in San José, Costa Rica on 5 October 2023, and organised by the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme (LACRP) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). During this Ministerial Summit, government officials from OECD and LAC will convene to discuss crucial objectives related to green transitions, sustainability, governance, and social inclusion.

¹⁷ See paragraph 7 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹⁸ See paragraphs 9 and 17 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

¹⁹ See paragraph 28 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit.

2. General Objective

The **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** aims to bring together leaders from civil society organisations (CSO), academia, international organisations, and governments in order to communicate the results of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), follow-up its priorities and commitments, and think on implementation mechanisms for bi-regional partnerships and cooperation policies with the participation of CSO. Specifically, the Forum will follow-up the agreements of the EU-CELAC Summit in the fields of **Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion**.

3. Specific Objectives

The **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** will provide a platform for dialogue to:

- Analyse the priorities and commitments of the EU-CELAC Summit and its Roadmap;
- Discuss the opportunities and limitations of the agreements of the EU-CELAC Summit;
- Analyse existing, and propose complementary strategies, programmes and actions, to help implementing the commitments assumed during the EU-CELAC Summit with the participation of CSO;
- Propose follow-up mechanisms to the commitments of EU-CELAC Summit with the participation of CSO.
- Provide a space to articulate sub-regional, regional, and bi-regional initiatives and cooperation, particularly of CSO both regions.

4. Methodology

The **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** will be implemented in a hybrid format (in-person and online), to facilitate ample participation of stakeholders from both regions. The Forum will take place over the course of one day.

The structure of the Forum will include an opening session, which will feature keynote speakers. Subsequently, participants will be able to contribute to parallel panels on three thematic areas: **a) Just Green Transitions, b) Inclusive Digital Transformation, and c) Social Cohesion**. Each thematic area will feature two panels, which correspond to specific aspects within the main thematic area, as detailed below:

a) Just Green Transitions

The two panels in this thematic area will focus on the renewed commitments by the CELAC and EU countries to strengthen the bi-regional cooperation for a Just Green Transition. The EU-CELAC Heads of State and Government committed to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation; enhance the cooperation and coordination on issues of common interest including climate change, biodiversity loss and energy security; ensure the mobilisation of climate finance for developing countries and the allocation of resources to sustainable development from international financial institutions and multilateral organisations; support the

full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and other relevant international environmental commitments; and invest and cooperate with the aim of achieving closer integration in clean energy supply chains, including critical raw materials and technology transfer (par. 3, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 of the Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit).

As a transversal aspect, these sessions will discuss the potential of the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda to address investment gaps with the goal of mobilising both private capital and public funding for sustainable development, including energy production, environmental perspectives, raw materials, and local value chains (par. 2).

The specific EU-CELAC priorities and commitments that will be analysed and discussed are the following:

- **Panel I: Financing the Just Green Transition:** Strengthening collaboration in international financial institutions and multilateral organisations for a fair, inclusive, and effective multilateral system that allocates appropriate resources to sustainable development (par. 18); fulfilling the commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion per year for climate finance and to double adaptation finance by 2025 (par. 23); establishment of funding arrangements and a fund for Loss and Damage (par. 27).
- **Panel II: Investing and Cooperating in Clean Energy and Critical Raw Materials (CRM):** Strengthening investment and cooperation with the aim of achieving closer integration in clean energy supply chains, including CRM and technology transfer (par. 17 and 31).

b) Inclusive Digital Transformation

The two panels in this thematic area will focus on the renewed commitment by the CELAC and EU countries of cooperating to promote a responsible human-centric, values-based, and inclusive model of digital transformation that protects privacy as a fundamental right, increases digital connectivity and cybersecurity, aims at closing digital gaps, fosters the trustworthy development and use of Artificial Intelligence, and contributes to trust in the digital economy (par. 29).

As transversal aspects these panels will discuss the potential contribution of the Digital Alliance and EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda to address investment gaps with the goal of mobilising both private capital and public funding for sustainable development, including digital transformation and education infrastructures (par. 28).

The specific EU-CELAC priorities and commitments that will be analysed and discussed are the following:

- **Panel I: Cooperation in Infrastructure, Connectivity, Access, and Regulatory Dialogue:** Cooperating to promote a responsible human-centric, values-based, and inclusive model of digital transformation that protects privacy as a fundamental right, increases digital connectivity and cybersecurity, fosters the trustworthy development and use of Artificial Intelligence, and contributes to trust in the digital economy (par. 29).
- **Panel II: Closing Digital Gaps, the Use of Infrastructures and Connectivity for Skill and Productivity Development:** Cooperating to promote a responsible human-centric, values-based and inclusive model of digital transformation that aims at closing digital gaps (par. 29).

c) Social Cohesion

The two panels in this thematic line will be linked to the renewed cooperation commitments expressed by CELAC and EU countries to continue building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, securing the protection and respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, addressing inequalities and vulnerabilities related to the triple transition, and ensuring effective and accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda (par. 7, 9, 17):

- **Panel I: Social and economic inequalities:** Fulfilling the commitment to fighting multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in public and private spheres and the world of work, considering, in particular, the rights of women, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and other persons in situations of vulnerability (par. 9).
- **Panel II: Political inequalities:** Full and equal representation and participation of women and girls in decision-making processes in the political, economic, social, and cultural realms. (par. 7, 9, 17).

Each panel will have 4-5 speakers, who will make presentations of 10-12 minutes each. Afterwards, all assistants of the panel will openly discuss the topics with the support of a moderator and suggested guiding questions. Each panel will have a rapporteur who will record the conclusions and recommendations of the working session.

The general guiding questions for panellists and discussions, which should be apply to the specific panel topics, are:

- *What priorities are expressed in the EU-CELAC joint Declaration? Are the commitments/agreements of the Declaration sufficient? Are there missing aspects of importance for civil society in the EU-CELAC Declaration?*
- *How can the implementation of the EU-CELAC Summit agreements be implemented from a multi-actor perspective?*
 - What are the existing strategies, actions and programmes in the EU and LAC?
 - Which other, complementary strategies, actions or programmes should be promoted?
 - How can the different actors (CSO, scientific community, international organisations, governments, private and labour sectors) contribute to the implementation of the agreements and actions with their respective competences, know-how, instruments, and resources? What kind of partnerships should be fostered?
- *What is the role of civil society in the implementation and follow-up of the EU-CELAC Summit agreements? What kind of mechanisms should be developed to enable civil society to follow-up these agreements?*

The results of the work of each panel will be presented and articulated in a plenary session at the end of the day. The presentations will be made by the moderators of each panel. The Forum will conclude with a closing session.

5. Participation in the Forum

The Forum is a high-level event that will convene civil society actors and leaders who participated in the EU-LAC thematic Fora and the Think Tank Meeting organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in the first half of 2023, in preparation to the EU-CELAC Summit. In addition, youth leaders and CSO representatives who participated in the “EU-LAC Forum: Partners in Change”, which took place on 13-14 July 2023 in Brussel, Belgium will be invited. The Multi-Actor Dialogue Forum will also be attended by experts from international organisations, high-level governmental representatives from the EU and the CELAC, and leaders from the private and labour sectors.

The Forum will also welcome the academic community of UNA and representatives from governments, international organisations, and private and labour sectors who will attend the I Ministerial Summit on Environmental Sustainability organised by the OECD LACRP.

6. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the **Multi-actor Dialogue Forum** are the following:

- Analysis of the priorities and commitments of the EU-CELAC Summit, and joint elaboration of proposals for implementing actions and follow-up mechanisms with the participation of CSO.
- Preparation of a document that incorporates the panellist’s expositions, synthesises the debate of the participants, and details the proposals for implementing actions and follow-up mechanisms of the EU-CELAC Summit agreements with the participation of CSO. Subsequently, the document will be disseminated extensively among stakeholders and the interested publics in the EU and LAC regions.
- Articulation between EU-LAC sub-regional, regional, and bi-regional networks and initiatives of civil society organisations focused on the fields of just green transition, inclusive digital transformation, and social cohesion.

7. Languages

The Forum will use two languages: Spanish and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided to facilitate the dialogue.



**European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean
Multi-actor Dialogue Forum**
Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion

Tentative Programme
National University, Costa Rica
Heredia, San José
4 October 2023, 09:00-18:45 (CST)

- 08:30 – 9:00 Registration**
- 09:00 – 10:00 Inaugural Session**
- 10:00: – 11:30 Keynote Speeches**
- 11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break**
- 12:00 – 13:30 Parallel Panels**
- *Just Green Transitions: Financing the Just Green Transition*
 - *Inclusive Digital Transformation: Cooperation in Infrastructure, Connectivity, Access, and Regulatory Dialogue*
 - *Social Cohesion: Social and Economic Inequalities*
- 13:30 – 15:00 Lunch**
- 15:00 – 16:30 Parallel Panels**
- *Just Green Transitions: Investing and Cooperating in Clean Energy and Critical Raw Materials (CRM)*
 - *Inclusive Digital Transformation: Closing Digital Gaps, the Use of Infrastructures and Connectivity for Skill and Productivity Development*
 - *Social Cohesion: Political inequalities*
- 16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break**
- 17:00– 18:00 Plenary session with rapporteurs from the parallel panels**
- Presentation of the results of the panels and dialogue*
- 18:00 – 18:45 Conclusions and closing**