



Declaration of the 4th Forum of Local and Regional Governments European Union – Latin America and the Caribbean

Bogota, Colombia , November 6, 2025

Cooperation and local development for prosperity: for a "EURO-territori-AL" initiative

Leaders of local and regional governments from Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean met in Bogotá, Colombia, for the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which will be held this week in Santa Marta, Colombia.

We held the 4th edition of the European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum of Local and Regional Governments (EU-LAC LRG Forum), with representatives from subnational governments (federated states, regions, provinces, departments, municipalities and cities) and the vision of building bridges of collaboration between national and local leaders in favor of a vigorous agenda of cooperation and development in response to the serious shortcomings of local communities and territories on both continents.

This IV Forum has been organized by the coordinating entities of local governments of both continents, headed by: the Mayor's Office of Bogotá, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA), the Council of Municipalities and Regions of Europe (CEMR) - PLATFORMA, MERCOCIUDADES, the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Diputació de Barcelona and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), with the support of the EU-LAC Foundation, the EU-LAC Observatory on Decentralized Cooperation, UN Habitat, the European Commission and the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia.

As a result of the dialogues held at this Fourth Forum, the leaders of local and regional governments of the EU and CELAC have defined a political, internationalist, cooperation, and development-strengthening agenda, which we wish to agree on with the participants of the Summit of Heads of State and Government. These agendas are based on the following:

CONSIDERING

- Recognition of and support for the axes of dialogue established by the European Union and CELAC during the last Summit, within the framework of an alliance based on respect for human rights, especially with regard to strengthening cooperation in multilateral forums to promote democracy, global peace and security, shared prosperity, inclusive societies from a feminist perspective, trade and investment, the fight against climate change, and justice and security for citizens;
- Local and regional governments, as the administrations closest to citizens, are essential for articulating public policies in the territory, hand in hand with civil society and the private sector.

Therefore, it is important to strengthen decentralization and local autonomy processes in both regions and promote investments for development at the community level.

- The fiscal capacity and autonomy of subnational governments are key to fostering investments in sustainable development and climate action;
- The political, economic and social dialogue between the European Union and CELAC within the framework of their instruments related to cooperation , particularly with regard to the European Commission's Global Gateway investment initiative , whose thematic priorities have a strong territorial dimension, is essential;
- The “Bi-regional Pact for Care” is a significant step toward recognizing care as a pillar of social justice and human rights;
- The need for climate justice and a focus on co-creating political solutions with communities and local and regional governments; and
- The desire to meet and continuously support the upcoming EU-CELAC Summits of Heads of State and Government, and in particular to hold our 5th Forum of Local and Regional Governments in its next edition.

For the above reasons:

We propose to the Heads of State and Government of the EU and CELAC

1. The official recognition of the Forum of Local and Regional Governments as a formal, parallel and regular space for successive EU-CELAC Summits , as well as the consideration of its conclusions and recommendations.
2. The opening of a regular and effective forum for dialogue between the Heads of State and Government and the Local and Regional Governments of both regions on relevant topics on the bi-regional agenda, such as development cooperation and financing; democracy, peace, and security; trade and investment; the fight against inequality; climate action; the territorialization of the Sustainable Development Goals; and other global agendas such as justice and security for citizens.
3. Promoting direct financing instruments for cities and territories, including alternative guarantee systems, as well as capacity building for better management of fiscal mechanisms.
4. The design of a strategy for the localization and territorialization of the European Global Gateway's investment agenda, which incorporates and recognizes the role of local and regional governments in an inclusive manner, both in the preparation of proposals and their implementation.
5. A firm commitment to strengthening care policies, ensuring access to quality, accessible, and viable care services as a fundamental pillar for social well-being, gender equality, and sustainable development.
6. The stimulation and support of territorial development through recognition of the wealth and potential of decentralized cooperation between local and regional governments in both regions as a key instrument for forging medium- and long-term ties.
7. The creation of a new cooperation program “EUROterritorial” between local and regional governments of both regions .



SIGNATORY INSTITUTIONS

Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá
Asociación de Ciudades Capitales de Colombia
Asociación Colombiana de Ciudades Intermedias
Asociación Francesa del Consejo de Municipios y Regiones de Europa
Association of Municipalities of the Netherlands
Asociación de Municipalidades de Bolivia
Association of Swedish Local and Regional Authorities
United Cities and Local Governments
Ciudades Unidas de Francia
European Committee of the Regions
Commonwealth Local Government Forum
Confederación Andina de Municipios
Conferencia Nacional de Municipios de México
Conferencia Nacional de Síndicos de México
Consejo de Municipios y Regiones de Europa
Diputación de Barcelona
Federación Colombiana de Municipios
Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias
Federación Nacional de Departamentos de Colombia
Federación de Municipios Libres del Perú
Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y
Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales
Fondo Andaluz de Municipalidades por la Solidaridad Internacional
Frente Nacional de Prefeitos del Brasil
Generalitat de Catalunya
MERCOCIUDADES
Observatorio de Cooperación Descentralizada Unión Europea - América Latina
PLATFORMA, Local and Regional International Action
Plenario de Municipios de Uruguay