



Translation of original in Spanish

## **MADRID DECLARATION**

### **Before the VI Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean**

The organizations and networks participating in the **V Euro-Latin American-Caribbean Civil Society Forum** declare the following:

The current international crisis has made clear the limits of an economic model based on market deregulations, unlimited growth and the reduction of the State to its minimum functions. The consequences of these policies are being felt in the lives of everyday people, particularly among the poorest and most excluded.

This is a deep systemic crisis, with economic, alimentary, energetic, environmental and social dimensions. According to the ILO, 200 million workers in developed countries could be pushed into poverty and, according to the OECD, 39 million people in Latin America may fall again below the poverty threshold. This crisis has also made clear the weakness of the State both in our European and Latin American nations and the power of transnational corporations. There is an urgent need to redesign the architecture of global governance and strengthen the democratic and participative nature of our national, regional and multilateral public institutions.

This situation is compounded by the failure of the Copenhagen Summit, as governments have not fulfil their duty to reach concrete, differentiated and shared commitments to reduce carbon emissions and failed to reach binding financial agreements for mitigation and adaptation policies in countries with limited resources. This situation threatens the sustainability of the planet, and requires urgent, effective and concerted action at the next Summit in Cancun.

We are concerned by democratic setbacks on both continents, the violation of human rights, rise of violence against women, increase of impunity, militarization and the escalation of social, cultural and environmental conflicts. In particular we point to the *coup d'état* in Honduras as an unacceptable situation that sets an intolerable precedent, which requires a strong response and the non recognition of the present Honduran government by the international community. We are also concerned about the situation of migrants in Europe, specially the organized violence they experience in certain countries. At the same time, we sympathize with the humanitarian disaster suffered in Haiti, which highlights the urgent need to change development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies, avoiding militarization and an increase of the debt of the country.

The international cooperation role cannot be reduced to the meeting of urgent needs and in no case be used as an instrument at the service of commercial and political interests, but it

must be directed to promote increased human capacities with a long term perspective and focused on enhancing the organisation and participation of people as well as States in the fundamental decisions for their development.

We believe that the current crisis is an opportunity to advance more decisively with respect to alternatives for change that comprise the complexity and integrity of the political, social, environmental, cultural and economic processes on our continents.

The crisis has proved that greater courage, political will and capacity for proposals on the part of the governments are needed. We therefore bring up to the governments of the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the following considerations and proposals regarding some topics that we consider of particular importance:

1. Build up a model of relations between LAC and UE where the political dialogue and cooperation are the core of genuine links to promote social justice and human, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, departing from a deep analysis and respect to the development models of our countries, their weaknesses and advantages.
2. Maintain and increase public budgets for social expenditure, giving priority to: employment insurance, health, public education, environmental protection, housing and shelter, gender equality and child development. Governments must commit themselves to generate decent work, starting with implementing the Global Jobs Pact and promoting civil society participation in the implementation and monitoring thereof. In turn, increased State revenue must be based on direct and progressive fiscal reforms.
3. Develop a new architecture of global governance aimed at reaching equality through the implementation of mechanisms of tax and trade justice at global level.
4. Introduce urgent measures of financial regulation both within the States and internationally, to protect savings, promote production and fight against speculation by means of controls of exchange rates and capital movements, as well as the prohibition of bank secrecy, offshore financial centres (OFCs) and the so called tax heavens. In addition, taxes must be levied on international financial transactions that are mechanism both of financial regulation and additional financing for development, and fight against impunity of economic and financial crimes. We appeal to raise the standards of public ethic commitment.
5. We reject the model of association agreements between the European Union the regional blocks and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as they impose WTO plus-type negotiation agendas, do not recognize and address the asymmetries between the parties and do not grant a real special and differentiated treatment. We propose agreements that guarantee the sovereignty, autonomy and the necessary political and legal space of governments to act. Agreements that give priority to regional integration based on complementarity, rather than on free trade and commercial policies based on competition.

At the same time, special treatment must be given to agriculture, recognizing the principles of food security and sovereignty, eliminating the distortions generated by certain European subsidies for agricultural prices and protecting small and medium-sized food producers.

6. Encourage genuine processes of people's integration, both within the UE and the community of Latin American and Caribbean countries, founded on democratically shared political projects and on the basis of complementarity, coordination and taking into account asymmetries. We are concerned about the marked emphasis put by the EU on interconnection, rather than on integration in Latin America, and the European Commission proposal to create -with resources for development cooperation - a Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) to finance mega projects of interconnectivity and infrastructure with possible negative impacts on the environment and local populations.

7. Acknowledge the negative impacts of the current development model on global warming. In the multilateral negotiations on global warming it is necessary to surpass the target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU from 20% to at least 30% by 2020 and guarantee that emerging countries also accept compulsory and proportional reduction measures. Furthermore, the EU and LAC governments should consider an 80% emissions reduction by 2050, as well as financial support measures to the most vulnerable countries, additional to official development assistance, in order to face the consequences of climate change. The EU and LAC governments must also consider the negative socioeconomic and environmental impacts of agrofuels production and their current energetic-industrial matrix. Guarantee that adaptation and compensation funds stay in the UN system and are available to local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGO). Promote bi-regional cooperation mechanisms in the field of technology, renewable energy and risk management derived from the climate change. A strong legal framework is required in relation to the exploitation of natural resources and its close monitoring at national and international level.

8. Strengthen the capacity of the State to regulate investments with environmental and social standards, which ensure diversity, biological and cultural wealth of territories and the ecologic patrimony of indigenous people and afro-descendants, thereby protecting their ancestral and collective rights frequently infringed upon by different extractive activities that displace these communities from their land. Guarantee access to water as social good and fundamental human right, promoting non-discriminatory rules for its use, stopping accelerated deforestation and desertification processes, preserving biodiversity of water and terrestrial ecosystems and protecting air and soil quality.

9. Democratize the relationship between the States and Civil Society in LAC, as well as in the EU, creating and strengthening binding processes and spaces for citizen participation in the design, implementation, evaluation and control of public policies at national, regional and bi-regional levels. Reinforce national sovereignty through effective processes of decentralisation, regionalisation and citizen participation, dismantling practices that involve disqualification and criminalisation of protest and social expression. Governments are compelled to respect and promote the right of all sectors of the civil society to participate in

mechanisms of dialogue, guaranteeing the transparency and access to information, in the framework of international negotiations as well as pursuant to all agreements and human rights treaties.

10. Persecute effectively racist and xenophobic practices in all our countries. We hereby reject the growth of racist and xenophobic groups and parties and demand the derogation of laws criminalising migration, particularly the “Directive on return illegal immigrants” approved by the European Parliament on 18 June 2008. The cooperation policies of the EU or its member States with Latin America and the Caribbean should not be linked to objectives aimed at regulating migratory flows. On the contrary, migration must be understood as a right, enrichment and an inevitable phenomenon in today’s world, and not as a threat.

11. Guarantee the existence of a plural media system, which encourages diversity, allows civil society the capacity to manage media and guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression to all sectors. For this reason we call on the States to establish public policies that guarantee communication as a right and to consider it as a fundamental axis in development cooperation policies. Direct resources aimed to promote digital social inclusion increasing the access to media and information technologies, with a greater investment that guarantees connectivity in poor and rural areas, at an affordable cost, in order to promote social ownership of knowledge. Encourage the development of democratic and accessible technological innovations, that favour social inclusion and contribute to the construction of a better citizenship.

12. Comply with the international agreements undertaken regarding development cooperation commitments. The EU governments must play a proactive role in developing and implementing financing for development policies in order to respect their commitment to allocate at least 0,7% of their GDP accounted for according to adjusted criteria for genuine ODA. We are greatly concerned about the systematic reduction of the participation of LAC in the total flow of official development assistance. The new loans granted to LAC countries should not involve conditionality that limits sustainable development and public investment capacities. At the same time, LAC countries should generate alternative mechanisms to achieve liquidity through the abolition of illegitimate debts after auditing.

13. Finally, the EU and LAC countries and institutions must prioritize policies that encourage a development that guarantees and promotes all human rights. The EU must comply with its agenda of policy coherence in favour of sustainable development, implementing immediately concrete mechanisms to this end. At the same time, the LAC and EU governments should articulate and implement a common agenda that promotes the coherence of all their policies at the service of development.

We know that LAC and EU civil society has proven through their multiple social and citizens’ organisations to be essential in guaranteeing the protection, promotion and enlargement of democratic rights and spaces in our continents. This impact is explained by our autonomy and legitimacy to discuss and act in function of a broad citizen’s agenda. We

commit ourselves to continue our advocacy and solidarity action, strengthening our bonds and common alliances based on these shared values. In this context, we call on all the organisations of both continents to join the activities that will take place around the EU-LAC Summit in May 2010, such as Enlazando Alternativas 4. We demand governments a greater openness for a permanent political dialogue with our organisations on this agenda of rights and freedoms.

Madrid, 16 March 2010.

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**CONCORD - European NGO confederation for relief and development,**  
whose members are:

**National Platforms:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic (FoRS), Cyprus (CYINDEP), Denmark (EU-NGO), Estonia (AKÜ), Finland (Kehys ry), France (Coordination SUD), Germany (VENRO), Greece , Hungary (HAND), Ireland (Dóchas), Italy (ONG italiane), Latvia (Lapas), Luxembourg (Cercle), Malta (SKOP), the Netherlands, Poland (Grupa Zagranica), Portugal, Slovakia (MVRO), Slovenia (SLOGA), Spain (CoNgDe), Sweden (CONCORD Sverige), UK (BOND).

**Networks:** ActionAid International, ADRA, Aprodev, CARE, Caritas Europa, CBM International, CIDSE, EU-CORD, Eurodad, Eurostep , IPPF European Network, Oxfam International , Plan Europe, Save the Children , Solidar, F.I. Terre des Hommes, World Vision, Wide

**Articulation table of national associations and NGO networks of Latin America and the Caribbean,** whose members are:

ABONG – Asociación Brasileña de Organismos No Gubernamentales – Brasil; ACCIÓN – Asociación Chilena de Organismos No Gubernamentales; ALOP – Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción; AMARC ALC- Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias de América Latina y El Caribe; ANC – Asociación Nacional de Centros de Investigación, Promoción Social y Desarrollo – Perú; ANONG – Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Orientadas al Desarrollo – Uruguay; CEAAL – Consejo de Educación de Adultos de América Latina; Confederación Colombiana de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales; Convergencia de Organismos Civiles por la Democracia – México; Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas – CONGCOOP – Guatemala; ENCUENTRO – Argentina; Latindadd - Red Latinoamericana de Deuda, Desarrollo y Derechos; PIDHDD – Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo; Pojoaju – Asociación de ONGs de Paraguay; Propuesta Ciudadana – Perú; SINERGIA– Venezuela; UNITAS – Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social – Bolivia

**Other signatories:**

- ADOC - Alianza Democrática de Organizaciones Civiles (México)
- Centre Tricontinental (Belgium)
- Centre National de Coopération au développement- 11 11 11 (Belgium)
- CICAP-Centro de Investigación, Capacitación, Asesoría y Promoción (Perú)
- CIFCA (Europe)
- CLADEM - Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer
- Collectif Guatemala (Belgium)
- CONEN - Coordenação Nacional de Entidades Negras (Brasil)
- Dynamo International (Belgium)
- Ecuador Decide (Ecuador)
- Frères des Hommes (Belgium)
- Grupo Social CESAP (Venezuela)
- IEPALA (Spain)
- ILLA Centro de Educación y Comunicación (Perú)
- Movimiento Manuela Ramos (Perú)
- 11 11 11 Koepel van de Vlaamse Noord Zuidbeweging (Belgium)
- Red UE- CAN (Europe)
- Red GE - Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad (Perú)