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Europe

SUMMARY REPORT

PROPOSALS FROM LA COORDINADORA DE ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO FOR A MORE JUST, INCLUSIVE, GREEN AND FEMINIST GLOBAL EUROPE

Spanish Presidency of the European Union Council
July to December 2023



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LA COORDINADORA
DE ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO

Spain will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at a key moment when it is more important -and urgent- than ever to adopt political decisions **centred on people and the planet to address the current global crises**. It also does so in a context conditioned by a convulsive political situation due to the early general elections in Spain and at a time when the European Union is witnessing the rise of political and social movements contrary to the values of freedom, equality, democracy and respect for human rights that inspired its founding. For all these reasons, La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo hopes that the Government will rise to such a decisive moment and exercise the Presidency of the Council of the EU as a national project above partisan interests. We also demand that the Spanish Presidency should ensure that all measures adopted within the European Union incorporate a feminist approach and policy coherence for sustainable development, both domestically and in its external action.

WORKING TOWARDS FAIR RULES OF THE GAME

To support social justice and reduce inequalities

Following a decade marked by austerity policies, the pandemic, worsening military conflicts and the climate emergency, **the European Union must take urgent action against rising inequality and poverty**. How? During its presidency, Spain should champion **policy coherence for sustainable development in the EU and abroad**. This means that all the policies should guarantee human rights and environmental protection.

PROPOSALS



Defending a fair triple transition (ecological, digital and socioeconomic) that contributes towards achieving climate neutrality, an inclusive digital future that respects human rights, and a social and solidarity economy.



Backing the adoption of an ambitious European Due Diligence Directive (i.e., legislation that guarantees companies respect human rights and the environment everywhere in the world).



Promoting the adoption and application of the agreements and recommendations from the International Labour Organization (ILO).



Supporting digital, scientific and technological education with a gender and age perspective, and limiting the use of artificial intelligence that poses a risk to human rights.



Establishing fair tax measures to deal with the crises and minimise their impact.



Strengthening the European international cooperation system that protects at-risk groups, global public assets, equality, human rights and democracy, and supports the end of colonialist views.



Including a feminist view in EU public policies to eliminate all forms of violence against women.



Improving financial aid mechanisms for civil society organisations, particularly those that defend human rights, migrants, radicalised groups, feminist groups, women, and children and adolescents.



Within the framework of **relations with Latin America, the Caribbean and the Southern Neighbourhood**, defining an **agenda aimed at defending human rights**, reducing inequality, protecting civil society spaces, and addressing the climate/food crisis, all through a gender focus.

FOR A PEOPLE-CENTRIC WORLD

To ensure that human rights are respected and exercised, protecting the spaces and mechanisms needed for citizen participation

We are witnessing humanitarian crises that cause forced displacements, famine, drought, extreme weather events and more. To reach the 2030 Agenda targets, all political decisions must be centred on people, their rights and their demands. How? The EU must **guarantee the participation and protection of civil society in Europe and the Global South**, paying special attention to **human rights defenders**.

PROPOSALS



Fostering comprehensive responses through the triple link that exists between **humanitarian action, peace and development**, and that strengthens the agenda of groups whose rights are systematically violated.



Promoting **Spanish and European external action for peace**.



Prioritising childhood and adolescence through greater investments in **education, health and protection**, and guarantees for their **participation in decision-making**.



Promoting **inclusive quality public education systems with a focus on gender**.



Guaranteeing the human right to food and food sovereignty for the entire population.



Acknowledging the global water crisis and taking action to protect and manage it in a sustainable, democratic and fair manner.



Furthering the creation of a Common European Asylum System that prioritises respect for the life and human rights of migrants and refugees, particularly women, children and adolescents.





Protecting, defending, supporting and including the civil society from a plural and independent Global South, as recommended by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).



Approving the European Regulation on Artificial Intelligence, with the inclusion of exhaustive bans for the entire AI system that affects the fundamental rights and obligations of public transparency and accountability.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

To drive a feminist, decolonial and intersectional focus

In light of the current global junction, the search for realistic, responsible and sustainable solutions will not result from continuing to analyse reality using the same approach as always. **EU actions must urgently be given a feminist, intersectional and decolonial focus.**

How? By making a real commitment through **European policies** centred on **sustainable life, care and a stronger agenda for women and girls.**

PROPOSALS



Addressing the multiple forms of discrimination by including and consulting those affected and establishing mechanisms that protect their rights.



Implementing the EU Global Health Strategy to provide universal health coverage, including all the services for sexual health as well as sexual and reproductive rights.



Supporting the fair distribution of resources and people's right to them.



Promoting the adoption of the EU Gender Action Plan III on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Relations 2021-2025 (*GAP III*).



On the topic of **gender-based violence**:

- Driving the **ratification of the Istanbul Convention** by all Member States.
- Backing the approval of the **European Directive on combating violence against women.**
- Giving continuity to EU strategies on **equality for gipsies and the LGBTI collective**, and adopting the Council's conclusions on gender equality regarding matters of health, including sexual health as well as sexual and reproductive rights.
- Considering **female genital mutilation as a form of gender-based violence** against women and girls.



Examining the accuracy of mechanisms for measuring and tracking the impact of gender-based initiatives.



On the topic of **funding**:

- Allocating approximately 30% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to promoting women's rights.
- Assigning 6% of ODA to health as well as sexual and reproductive rights.
- Prioritising at least 30% of repayable assistance for projects that specifically target local women's organisations.

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Founded in 1986, the Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo (Spanish Development NGO Platform, La Coordinadora) is a national network of organizations and social platforms working in the field of development, international solidarity, humanitarian action, education for global citizenship and the defence of human rights anywhere in the world.

Composed of 75 members organizations, six associates and 17 regional coordinators. In total, more than 600 organizations work in more than 100 countries defending human rights, gender equality and the protection of the planet.

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