



European Elections

June 2024

PROPOSALS OF LA COORDINADORA DE
ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO

La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo

C/ Reina, 17 - 3º (28004 Madrid)

www.coordinadoraongd.org

Founded in 1986, it is the national network of organisations and platforms working in the field of development, international solidarity, humanitarian action, education for global citizenship and the defence of human rights throughout the world.

Formed by 75 member organisations, six associates and 17 regional coordinators, in total, it represents more than 600 organisations working in more than 100 countries in the defence of human rights, gender equality and the protection of the planet.

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The **European Parliament elections in June 2024** are taking place at a **key moment** for the European Union (EU) and for the world. The climate change crisis and ecological emergency, increasing inequalities, worsening conflicts, the erosion of multilateralism, food insecurity and the rise of political and social movements that run counter to the values that inspired the founding of the EU are just some of the many **challenges we face as a global society**.

The setbacks in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the conclusions of the 2023 edition of the World Sustainable Development Report¹, and the regression in the human development index are just two examples that empirically demonstrate that **we are far from achieving the 2030 Agenda** with little more than five years to go.

These elections are a unique opportunity to address this transition. La Coordinadora de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo presents its proposals for the new European institutional cycle. We want the EU to work from the perspective of policy coherence for sustainable development, endowed with the necessary resources, integrating all the impacts - internal and external - of all its political decisions, incorporating an intersectional feminist approach, the strategic participation of civil society organisations and promoting a feminist cooperation policy oriented towards sustainable development.

Only from this perspective can we advance in the necessary transition towards a new democratic and social model on a global scale that is socio-economically fairer, ecologically sustainable and which guarantees that the now inevitable digital transformation will be inclusive and respectful of human rights.

POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The EU has a key role to play in achieving a **global ecological, socio-economic, feminist and democratic transition**. To this end, it must work from a perspective of **policy coherence for sustainable development** that has the capacity to integrate all the impacts, internal and external, of its policy decisions. This also implies reforming the governance of European policy-making, incorporating the strategic involvement of civil society organisations and increasing transparency and control over the participation of business organisations in the global value chain as a whole.



In terms of cooperation, **promote the strengthening of the European international cooperation system - financing and development - to turn it into a strategic policy** that supports the most vulnerable populations, protects and promotes global public goods and builds more resilient societies, consistent with sustainable development, equality, human rights, decolonialism and democracy.



In the face of multiple and interrelated crises, **promote multi-sectoral and comprehensive responses based on the triple nexus between humanitarian action, peace and the development** of societies under international human rights frameworks and agreements and international humanitarian law. Focus these actions on strengthening the resilience and protection

¹ https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/FINAL%20GSDR%202023-Digital%20-110923_1.pdf



of all people, especially those whose rights are violated, such as women, children, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, ethnic groups and other groups facing discrimination.



In the face of the resurgence of conflicts on a global scale, **promote a European external action oriented towards peace** through actions and political initiatives that prioritise the prevention and peaceful and dialogical resolution of conflicts, as well as respect for and promotion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. **In the face of reinforced arms and defence policies, invest in development** and respond to humanitarian needs by putting people at the centre of the response, strengthening local and national capacities, and ensuring predictable, flexible and multi-year funding.



Put children and youth as a priority through the following measures: increasing investment in children and adolescents, with a gender focus, with a particular focus on education, health and protection to guarantee their rights in a global context of overlapping crises; establishing formal mechanisms for child and adolescent participation to ensure their views are taken into account in decision-making; and harnessing digital learning to reclaim and transform education, with an emphasis on closing the gender gap.



As civil society committed to human rights around the world, we are deeply concerned about the limitation of the rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the new Migration and Asylum Pact. The expansion of accelerated procedures at the border, the creation of a legal fiction of non-entry that is hardly compatible with international law, the limitation of the right to an effective remedy, the delegation of asylum and migration responsibilities to third countries, and the wide range of exceptions and derogations under concepts such as "crisis", "instrumentalisation" and "extraordinary measures" will lead to an erosion of the Common European Asylum System.

We consider essential the commitment of the new institutions to ensure **an implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum that**, in its interpretation and implementation: **guarantees respect for human rights** (international human rights law) **and the lives of migrants and refugees**, especially those of women and children; applies the highest standards of transparency and accountability; and enables formal and stable mechanisms for dialogue with civil society organisations, experts and human rights defenders involved.



In the framework of **relations with Latin America and the Caribbean and the Southern Neighbourhood**, define an agenda focused on the defence of human rights, social cohesion, the reduction of inequalities, the protection of spaces for civil society participation and the response to the climate and food crises, including a transformative gender approach in line with the feminist diplomacy promoted by the EU.



To push for **greater transparency in EU decision-making with regard to international, regional and bilateral relations** in order to build equal, fair and meaningful partnerships based on democratic principles and human rights.

FEMINIST EXTERNAL ACTION



In order to move towards this new paradigm of social, climate and gender justice, it is **urgent to imprint EU action - internal and external - with a feminist, intersectional and decolonial approach**² that explains and provides answers, based on policy coherence, to the multiple discriminations and violence faced by people, taking into consideration different axes of oppression such as ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation or gender identity (LGTBIQA+), to the multiple discriminations and violence that people face, taking into consideration different axes of oppression such as ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation or gender identity (LGTBIQA+), age, economic status, religious belief, disability or place of origin, among others.



Promote the implementation, monitoring and resourcing of the EU's Third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action (GAP III) and the promotion of a EU Intersectional Feminist Foreign Policy with the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Member States.



Implement the European Global Health Strategy, approved by the Council of the EU, for the fulfilment of universal health coverage, including all sexual health services and sexual and reproductive rights and recognising the specific health needs of women, children, older people, people with disabilities, LGTBIQA+ people, migrant populations, black people, indigenous peoples and communities in situations of vulnerability and marginalisation.



Promote the transition towards care societies as the axis of inspiration and articulation for the rest of the transitions proposed in the current agendas and as a way to move towards transformative societies in which care is addressed from the sustainability of life and policy coherence, including the environmental dimension, the promotion of a culture of care and the achievement of equity and social, gender and racial justice. In this sense, **continue with the work developed to achieve the formalisation and implementation of a bi-regional care pact between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean.**



Prevent and combat all forms of sexual and gender-based violence by implementing effective policies to this end, especially the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence. This Directive is the first law at European level on this issue and incorporates important advances, but it should be reviewed and strengthened as soon as possible to also include aspects such as the criminalisation of rape with a definition based on the absence of consent or the guarantee of safe complaint mechanisms for migrant women in an irregular administrative situation.

² The decolonial approach implies the permanent questioning of the single subject and revises the concept of women in its claim to universality within the framework of different systems of domination and power. It considers and values the numerous contributions of racialised women from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Afro-descendants, both in their places of origin and in the diaspora, as well as from other colonised countries. It draws on popular and community knowledge to construct a critique of the way in which feminism has posited the emancipation of women or non-binary sexualities and genders.

The intersectional approach helps us to understand the way in which different identities converge in the access to rights and opportunities, yet to be achieved in many parts of the world in a real and effective way. These discriminations can be caused by ethnic or racial origin, economic status, sexual orientation or gender identity (LGTBIQA+ people), age, religion, disability or place of origin, among others.



Call on the new European Commission to commit to increasing direct funding to feminist movements and women's rights organisations, advocating for and expanding the civic space of these organisations and engaging directly with them. The Commission should **particularly** focus on those organisations facing **intersectional forms of discrimination**, such as local and rural women's rights organisations, CSOs led by young women and girls, organisations of women with disabilities, and LGBTBIQA+ CSOs.

FUNDING



Rethink the EU's economic policy objectives, abandoning the inertia of the past on issues such as budgetary stability, industrial policy and trade policy. **Economic policies must be geared primarily towards improving welfare and guaranteeing social rights.** To achieve this, the intervention of public authorities is essential, both through a progressive fiscal policy, with strong investments in social protection, and through the regulation and protection of the economy against the imbalances generated by the current global economic order.



Urge the European Commission to provide more detailed figures on the implementation of the targets of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe), in particular with regards to Official Development Assistance, human development, climate, migration, gender and funding for civil society organisations (CSOs); as well as the type of funding mechanisms being used for the implementation of the budget. The European Parliament should also be informed ahead of each mobilisation of the NDICI *flexibility cushion* for new challenges and priorities.



Maintain regular and quality consultation with civil society on the monitoring and evaluation of the NDICI, including during the Commission-Parliament geostrategic dialogue, including the possibility to access data in a timely, transparent and accessible manner.



Monitor the NDICI and all Global Gateway projects with regards to their impact on equality in partner countries, including by pushing for the meaningful implementation of Inequality, Gender and Disability Markers.



Untying the use of NDICI funds to the EU's relations with a particular state. International cooperation should not be used to promote EU geopolitical or economic interests through the Global Gateway, nor to address national priorities such as migration. In this regard, it should commit to following the objectives set out for international cooperation in the EU Treaty and the NDICI regulation.



Maintain EU engagement and assistance in the most fragile contexts, where they face shortages of all kinds, regardless of the relationship with national authorities. Where bilateral cooperation is not possible, consider other partnership approaches that can help maintain the EU's commitment to people's well-being, human rights and progress, such as partnerships with civil society organisations, which are often closest to the most vulnerable people.

CIVIC SPACE



In the face of the attacks on democracy and human rights and the worrying reduction of spaces for participation at the global level, **guarantee the participation of all social actors and the promotion of an organised, critical, strengthened and committed global citizenship** to overcome the current multiple crises and to assert the objectives of cooperation and humanitarian assistance within the new agenda for sustainable development and peace.



Demand that the EU increase dialogue with all types of civil society actors at all levels and stages of the policy cycle. For example, by consulting civil society on parliamentary dossiers related to key issues such as the Global Gateway strategy and the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), environment and climate change, the EU budget, civic space and human rights, or EU-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and EU-African Union bi-regional relations.



Request and provide resources for the full and comprehensive implementation of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) recommendation on civil society empowerment with the particular aim of devolving power and supporting the localisation agenda.



Call on the European Commission and the EEAS to take a strong political stance that promotes open civic space and protects human rights, environmental and territorial defenders, and to allocate the necessary tools and resources to prevent the reduction of funding and spaces for CSOs inside and outside the EU.

