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Side event to CSW 69

'Beijing+30

Transforming financial architectures for gender equality: Pathways to inclusive and prosperous societies in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean'

Concept and Agenda

Organisation: EU-LAC Foundation & ODI Europe / Walking the Talk & La Coordinadora de ONGs de Desarrollo & Hivos & Sedra & UN WOMEN & UNDP

Venue: Mission of Mexico to the UN, New York

Format: face-to-face / hybrid; **Link for virtual attendance registration:** <https://bit.ly/EULACatCSW>

Date & time: 10 March 2025, 13:00-15:00

Language: English and Spanish (with simultaneous translation)

Background

Evidence increasingly demonstrates that women's empowerment and gender-transformative approaches are pivotal in addressing global challenges, including climate change, economic prosperity, peace, security, and democratic strengthening. Diversity and perspectives from women and underrepresented groups not only enrich communities but also contribute to collective social and economic well-being¹.

The international community has consistently reaffirmed commitments to gender equality through multiple policy frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development from 2015, and the Agreed Conclusions from the 68th Commission on the Status of Women in 2024. These frameworks provide clear, action-oriented recommendations for Member States to enhance financing for gender equality.

Despite these commitments, global progress remains critically insufficient. No country is currently on track to achieve gender equality by 2030, according to the 2024 SDG Gender Index. SDG 5 focusing on gender equality remains one of the least financed Sustainable Development Goals, with Official Development Assistance targeting gender equality actually declining². Experts estimate that an additional USD 360 billion per year³ is needed to meet SDG 5 commitments by 2030.

Upcoming international processes in 2025, specifically the Beijing+30 Conference and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), present crucial opportunities for

¹ World Economic Forum: How inclusive societies boost economic growth; retrieved from:

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2015/08/how-inclusive-societies-boost-economic-growth/>

² See: <https://odi.org/en/insights/ringing-the-alarm-bell-what-recent-oda-trends-indicate-for-gender-equality/>

³ See: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>



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renewed commitments for gender equality. These forums will be critical in bridging gender equality and financial pledges, improving international accountability, and accelerating global efforts toward inclusive societies.

CSW 69/Beijing+30

The next session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW 69/Beijing+30](#)), to be held in March 2025, will bring together heads of state and government, civil society organisations, representatives of feminist and women's movements and international agencies to assess the current challenges affecting the full implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). These documents marked an unprecedented international consensus, with 189 governments committing to implement concrete actions to remove barriers to women's advancement in 12 critical areas, such as education, economics, political power and human rights. The Beijing Platform for Action established for the first time a comprehensive framework that recognised gender equality not only as a fundamental human right, but as a necessary condition for sustainable social and economic development, radically transforming the way governments address gender policies.

The five-year reviews of the Beijing Platform for Action have traced a complex evolution of global commitments to gender equality. From Beijing+5 to Beijing+25, there have been significant advances in legal frameworks, political representation and recognition of rights, but also persistent structural challenges⁴. At the same time, each review has revealed gaps between the agreed commitments and their effective implementation, highlighting the need for deeper transformations in social, economic and political structures⁵.

⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 25 years in review of the Beijing Platform for Action: Contributions of the Platform of independent expert mechanisms on the elimination of discrimination and violence against women (CEDAW Platform) towards its implementation. Retrieved from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-violence-against-women/25-years-review-beijing-platform-action-contributions-platform-independent-expert-mechanisms> ; European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) (2021). AT A GLANCE Plenary - February 2021. Women's rights: 25-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. Retrieved from: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_ATA\(2021\)679074](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_ATA(2021)679074) [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2021/679074/EPRS_ATA\(2021\)679074_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2021/679074/EPRS_ATA(2021)679074_EN.pdf)

⁵ National reports are available through this page: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025/preparations>; see also: CLACSO, Oxfam and ONU Mujeres. (2022). Avances y desafíos pendientes de la Declaración y la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing en el contexto de la recuperación de la crisis por Covid-19. [Progress and remaining challenges of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of recovery from the crisis by Covid-19.] Retrieved from: <https://lac.unwomen.org/es/digital-library/publications/2022/05/avances-y-desafios-pendientes-de-la-declaracion-y-la-plataforma-de-accion-de-beijing-en-el-contexto-de-la-recuperacion-de-la-crisis-por-covid-19>



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Funding to promote equality and women's rights

One of the pressing challenges to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is the growing funding gap faced by countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. In the current context, —characterised by the macroeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine, the transition to low-carbon economies, and economies showing weaknesses in competitiveness, productivity, and innovation, among others— fiscal spaces for designing public policies and cooperation programmes aimed at closing structural gender inequality gaps have been very limited, complicating efforts to invest in more equitable and resilient societies. Although many countries have gradually incorporated gender considerations into public financial management, the planning and budgeting for gender issues remains partial and inconsistent. Looking at international cooperation, between 2021 and 2022, only 1.4% of official development assistance (ODA) was directed to women's rights and gender equality organisations⁶.

To overcome these challenges, it is crucial to integrate a gender-transformative approach into macroeconomic policies, using a variety of methods and resources from public and private sources, and intensify data collection as well as gender audits of financial allocations, thus ensuring that investments become part of a comprehensive and integrated policy strategy. In addition to the crucial role played by governments, new types of instruments have emerged, promoted by actors such as multilateral and regional organisations, investment and development banks, and bi-regional programmes such as the Team Europe Initiative on Shared and Equitable Societies, which aims to strengthen the social dimension of the Global Gateway Investment Agenda between the EU and LAC.

The EU and the Latin American and Caribbean region can be pivotal in accelerating gender equality progress, driven by their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, and multilateralism. Their vibrant women's rights civil society and recent experiences with feminist-inspired foreign policies position them as strategic partners. The EU has increasingly established itself as a global leader in advancing gender equality and shaping progressive gender norms, while both regions are well-positioned to collaborate as strategic trade and political allies amidst ongoing geopolitical transformations.

⁶ Focus 2030. (2024, Abril 24). Which countries support gender equality in their Official Development Assistance? Focus 2030. Retrieved from: <https://focus2030.org/Which-countries-support-gender-equality-in-their-Official-Development> ; OECD. (2024). Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment. OECD. Retrieved from: <https://web-archiv.oecd.org/temp/2024-03-07/73550-development-finance-for-gender-equality-and-Women-s-empowerment.htm>



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Objectives of the CSW 69 side event

Against this backdrop, and in order to renew the commitments undertaken in the EU-CELAC bi-regional partnership in the field of gender equality, the EU-LAC Foundation, through its EU-LAC International Women's Network, together with ODI Europe / Walking the Talk, proposes to organise a parallel event to CSW69, with the following objectives:

- Review the state of funding for policies that protect women's rights, promote gender equality, and strengthen civil society organisations fighting for women's and girls' rights;
- Provide a space to present innovative ideas to strengthen existing financial mechanisms or design new instruments and think about specific commitments to ensure the sustainability of funds in challenging contexts;
- Provide a space to share evidence and best practices around opportunities and impact of gender equality policies and gender-transformative approaches in promoting inclusive and prosperous societies;
- Explore opportunities to promote, from a multi-stakeholder and bi-regional logic, a renewed financial architecture that puts gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of public policies and international cooperation.

With the dialogue, we aim to highlight the potential of a “[Bi-regional Pact for Care](#)”, which - if receiving approval at the highest political level – the CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Colombia - could evolve into another innovative source to finance cooperation on the establishment of comprehensive care systems and policies that include the provision of quality, affordable, and accessible early childhood and long-term care services, as well as ensuring decent working conditions and quality employment, training and vocational training for caregivers.⁷

In addition, this dialogue is also promoted with a view of the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)⁸, which is expected to critically review the concept and measurement of ‘development’ and pay due attention to the continuing inequality gaps and specific vulnerabilities faced by developing countries. Spain, as host country of the Conference, has also placed on the agenda the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to support the reform of the international financial architecture.

⁷ For more information, see, for example: https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/Report_Event_Pact_Care_CSW.pdf ; <https://www.cepal.org/en/events/sixty-fifth-meeting-presiding-officers-regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean> ; <https://coordinadoraongd.org/2023/07/declaracion-de-la-sociedad-civil-de-america-latina-caribe-y-ue-tras-el-foro-ue-lac/>

⁸ The IV International Conference on Financing for Development will take place from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville; see: <https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4>



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The interactive dialogue seeks to answer the following guiding questions:

- *How have the international, regional and national circumstances affected the availability of resources for the fulfilment of women's rights? What are the implications of this context for multilateralism and bi-regional cooperation?*
- *What are the main obstacles faced by public institutions, civil society organisations and women's rights movements in opening fiscal spaces and accessing funding?*
- *What positive impacts and opportunities do women's empowerment and gender equality approaches offer in overcoming local and global challenges?*
- *What innovative financing mechanisms and instruments have been developed by public institutions, banks, philanthropic organisations and the business sector to scale up efforts to secure women's rights and achieve the SDG 5 target?*
- *What specific commitments could States in both regions – Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union – make to ensure sustained funding for gender equality and the “Bi-regional Pact for Care” which is expected to be agreed upon in the upcoming CELAC-EU Summit?*

Format

Open and interactive moderated dialogue with a duration of 2 hours, which seeks to articulate the perspectives and voices of representatives of governments, cooperation agencies, philanthropy, international and regional development banks, the private sector, civil society organisations and international organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. During the dialogue, panellists as well as participants will be invited to contribute with brief interventions to share their reflections, good practices and recommendations to this exchange.



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Agenda

Monday, 10 March 2025; link for virtual attendance registration: <https://bit.ly/EULACatCSW>

Time (New York)	Segment	Speakers
13:00-13:10	Welcome	Alberto Brunori , Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation
13:10-13:20	Keynotes	<p><i>Progress and challenges of funding for gender equality, women's rights and feminist movements from an EU-LAC perspective</i></p> <p>Leire Pajín, Member of the European Parliament, Founder of the EU-LAC WIN Network (<i>online</i>)</p> <p>Michelle Muschett, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>
13:20-13:45	First round of dialogue	<p>Dialogue with governmental representatives:</p> <p>Moderated by: Anna Barrera, EU-LAC Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citlalli Hernández, Secretary for Women, Mexico • Aina Calvo, Secretary of State for Equality and against Gender Violence, Spain • Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity, Chile • Inese Libiņa-Egnere, Minister of Justice, Latvia <p><i>Taking into account the reduced fiscal spaces of governments in both regions, how has your country managed to overcome the obstacles to integrating a gender-sensitive approach into public policies in a comprehensive manner and to foster the work of civil society organizations and movements working for women's rights?</i></p> <p><i>What specific commitments could the States of both regions - Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union - make to ensure sustained funding towards gender equality and the "Bi-regional Pact for Care" that is expected to be agreed at the next CELAC-EU Summit?</i></p>
13:45-14:15	Second round of dialogue	<p>Dialogue with representatives of banks and feminist funds:</p> <p>Moderated by: Jim Monkel, Hivos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Caridad Araujo, Head of Gender and Diversity Division, Interamerican Development Bank (IDB)



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafal Rybacki, European Investment Bank (EIB) Representative to the United Nations • Barbara Auricchio, Gender Specialist at CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean • Magdalena Pocheć, FemFund, Poland • Amalia Fischer, ELAS+ Cofounder, Brazil <p><i>What innovative financing mechanisms have been developed by multilateral banks, feminist funds and philanthropic institutions to increase efforts to secure women's rights and achieve targets related to SDG 5?</i></p> <p><i>What positive impacts have such programmes and instruments been able to generate in women's lives?</i></p>
14:15-14:40	Third round of dialogue	<p>Dialogue with representatives of international organisations:</p> <p>Moderated by: Aline Burni, ODI Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiara Adamo, Head of Unit for Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG INTPA, European Commission (tbc) • Maruša Gortnar, Head of Research and Policy Support Unit, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) • Ana Güzmes, Chief of Division for Gender Affairs, ECLAC • María-Noel Vaeza, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Women <p><i>What impact does the current geopolitical context have on multilateralism and bi-regional cooperation for the fulfilment of women's rights?</i></p> <p><i>What proposals do international institutions have to guarantee the financing of the 'Bi-regional Pact for Care' and cooperation related to SDG5, taking into account the 'Financing Feminist Futures' Conference (May 2025, Madrid), the IV International Conference on Financing for Development (July 2025, Sevilla) and the CELAC-EU Summit (November 2025, Bogotá)?</i></p>
14:40-14:50	Comments	<p>Tania Sánchez, Executive Director, Coordinadora de la Mujer, Bolivia</p> <p>Filomena Ruggiero, SEDRA Federación de Planificación Familiar, Spain</p>
14:50-15:00	Closing	<p>Elizabeth Campbell, Executive Director, ODI Global in Washington DC (online)</p> <p>Bruna Martínez, Hivos</p>