



CELAC-EU ACTION PLAN 2013-2015

New chapters

7. Gender

The main objective is to prioritise the gender issue in the context of bi-regional relations and underscore the political will in both regions to guarantee gender equality and the protection, exercise and promotion of women's rights, including i) Political participation of women; ii) Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence; and iii) Economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work and in all decision-making processes.

Work Programme:

**Dialogue*

a. Create a bi-regional space for the exchange of experiences and cooperation on gender issues aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the different fields of the CELAC-EU dialogue.

**Cooperation activities and initiatives*

b. Promote the political and popular participation of women in terms of equality.

c. Promote actions to combat and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, through activities such as publishing gender educational programmes and manuals and standardising protocols of investigation to prosecute and punish the perpetrators, among other actions.

d. Continue close cooperation at the UN, including for the forthcoming UN 57th Commission of the Status of Women and in the UN General Assembly.

e. Promote the economic empowerment of women and their participation in the economy and paid labour markets, with social security and conditions of fairness, as well as to promote policies and laws to ensure equal pay for equal work.

f. Identify the state of play of the main working topics in each region.



g. Identify areas of exchange and cooperation for the creation of synergies and mutual learning to optimise existing practices and lessons learned in the area of gender mainstreaming in all public policies.

h. Identify common areas to cooperate in technical assistance, training and exchange of experiences.

** Expected results*

i. Establishment of an intergovernmental bi-regional working group aimed at defining shared objectives. The main working topics at this first stage are:

- Political participation of women.
- Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work.

j. Bi-regional seminar for the exchange of experiences on gender-based violence, to share best practices and the most effective measures to prevent and combat it.

k. Promote concrete measures for the investigation of gender-based killing.

l. Bi-regional seminar on "Economic empowerment of women and participation in the world of work", for exchanging experiences and best practices in the field of education and training in ICT.

m. Exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, regarding the state of art on gender policies, including equality and empowerment of women by countries.

n. Bi-regional seminar with State representatives which may include experts and women's organizations, to exchange experiences on the achievements of peace, conflict resolution and participation of women in those processes, including the implementation of relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly in this regard, as well as Resolution 1325. (Women - Peace and Security).

o. Agreed language, when possible, to be used in common positions in international fora, especially resolutions to be negotiated at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women.



8. Investments and entrepreneurship for sustainable development

In line with the I CELAC–EU Santiago Declaration, the main objectives in this area are: i) to promote bi-regional investments of social and environmental quality to achieve sustained economic growth while promoting social cohesion and inclusion and protecting the environment. Such investments contribute, among others, to increased trade flows, job creation, technology transfer, stimulation of innovation, fiscal revenues, support and development of auxiliary industries; ii) to promote entrepreneurship as a driving force of economic and social development and; iii) to facilitate the conditions that foster entrepreneurship and innovation, remove obstacles, build capacity and increase competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and new social actors of the economy.

Work Programme:

*Dialogue

a. Set up a dialogue at an appropriate level to develop the main aspects of investments and entrepreneurship between both regions such as the CELAC-EU Ministers of Economy Meeting, held in Puerto Varas, Chile.

*Cooperation activities and initiatives

b. Encourage cooperation between investment promotion agencies of each country and the coordination of investment efforts in order to share information on investment opportunities in our countries and exchange effective public policies in productive development.

c. Promote open, stable, predictable and transparent regulatory frameworks to encourage investment and provide legal certainty to investors and local stakeholders, while recognising the sovereign right of states to regulate. Promote also compliance with national and international law, in particular, inter alia on taxes, transparency, the protection of environment, social security and labour.

d. Promote the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and, within this framework, consider participating in the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy.



e. Promote public policies facilitating and expediting the creation and operation of enterprises, as well as those improving their conditions and access to financing, especially in the case of MSMEs. In this regard, all available financial instruments should be mobilized, including but not limited to public investment, investments facilities financed by Official Development Aid (ODA), private equity, venture capital, micro-credits, risk capital, business angels and guaranties.

f. Strengthen the support of the financial institutions and international organizations –in their evaluation processes of lending– to those investment projects which respect internationally recognised social and environmental criteria within the context of sustainable development, taking into account, where appropriate, the needs of the developing countries.

g. Promote entrepreneurship within higher, technical and vocational education and training systems in order to adapt the skills and competences of students to labour market needs.

h. Promote decent work inter alia through the ILO programme for sustainable enterprises.

i. Include, when possible, the guidelines and internationally recognised principles of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the definition of policies and national plans to promote good corporate behaviour, such as encouraging the timely payment to suppliers, particularly (MSME) by the public and private sectors.

j. Promote public policies which encourage transparency on the part of enterprises as regards social, environmental and human rights matters.

* Expected results

k. Seminar of national investment promotion entities aimed at exchanging experiences and promoting coordination of investment efforts.

l. Appointment in each country, as appropriate, of an official at the highest possible political level ("Mr. or Ms. MSMEs") to deal with the issues related to MSMEs, exchanging best practices with their counterparts from other countries.



- m. Holding, as appropriate, of a "week for the promotion of MSMEs" in each country simultaneously, an initiative that has already been done successfully in countries of both regions.
- n. Invite countries to consider submitting a report of national action plans on CSR - if applicable - at the next CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government, in 2015.
- o. Bi-regional meeting on model enterprises applying the concept of corporate social responsibility as regards social, environmental and human rights matters.