



Concept note on CSO-LA Consultation on the

Follow up of EU Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean (2021-2027), and connection with the bi-regional roadmap CELAC-EU 2022-2023

Thursday, 15 December 2022

15:00h - 18:00h CET

In the framework of continuous dialogue on programming within the Policy Forum on Development (PFD), a second meeting on the EU Regional multi-annual indicative programme (RMIP) for the Americas and the Caribbean will be held online on 15 December 2022. This meeting will look at the implementation of the RMIP, and provide information on the CELAC-EU Bi-regional Roadmap 2022-2023 in light of current political agendas.

Context/Overview

The PFD hosted a consultation on the EU Regional multi annual indicative programme (RMIP) for the Americas and the Caribbean (2021-27) on 25 May 2021. The RMIP was adopted by the Commission on 13 December 2021 (reference C(2021)9356) and implementation has started. Five regional priority areas have been defined for the region: (1) green transition; (2) digital transformation; (3) sustainable and inclusive recovery; (4) democratic governance, security and migration; and (5) social cohesion and addressing inequalities. Three specific EU-Caribbean partnerships have been proposed: (1) for a Green Deal; (2) for economic resilience and trade; and (3) for governance, security and human development.

Meanwhile, the European Commission has put forward a Global Gateway strategy, which will have an impact on the EU-LAC bi-regional agenda. The Global Gateway strategy (JOIN(2021)30 final) aims at boosting major investments in a sustainable, smart, clean and secure way in areas such as digital, climate and energy, transport, health, education and research, while promoting democratic values and high standards, good governance, transparency and equal partnership.

In addition, the EU is committed to reviving the partnership with the LAC region. A number of political events have recently taken place, including an EU-LAC ministerial in Berlin on 14 December 2020; a Leaders' meeting on 7 December 2021; and the CELAC-EU ministerial meeting held in Buenos Aires on 27 October 2022. In the Caribbean, a ministerial meeting was held on 12 October 2022 to launch the three Caribbean-EU partnerships. The Buenos Aires meeting adopted an ambitious CELAC-EU Bi-Regional Roadmap 2022 - 2023 with the objective to work towards a third EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government in the second half of 2023. Key event(s) engaging youth, women's organisations, private sector, and other civil society representatives, among other key stakeholders will be organised ahead of the Summit.

Flagships come in support to the bi-regional agenda, building on the RMIP and Team Europe Initiatives: (1) green transitions including Amazon Basin, Five Great Forests in Central America, circular economy; (2) digital transformation including BELLA expansion, Copernicus data centres, cybersecurity; (3) human development, encompassing social cohesion and also health/vaccines and education; and (4) internal security, fight against transnational and organised crime, including support to AMERIPOL.

Participants in the meeting will:

- Better understand the first steps of implementation of the RMIP and its alignment with the Global Gateway strategy and the EU-LAC agenda;
- Be informed about the key aspects of the CELAC-EU roadmap 2022-2023;
- Discuss and share insights with EU representatives on the RMIP being implemented for the period 2021-2027;
- Contribute to a forward-looking and ongoing dialogue with the EU with a view to integrating different stakeholders' perspectives and recommendations.

Methodology

The meeting will bring together EU officials and representatives from CSO and LA networks from Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean. The aim will be to go beyond a purely descriptive presentation of strategies, contribute to a collective reflection and gather input from participants.

The three hour event will: introduce the state of play of the regional programme for the Americas and the Caribbean and its connections with the CELAC-EU bi-regional Roadmap 2022 2023; allow for clarification questions and discussion in plenary session; and foster more in-depth discussion in two working groups, one on Inclusive Societies (1) and another one on Just Transitions in a context of Green and Digital Transformation (2).

The following guiding questions aim to prepare participants for the meeting. The questions may be slightly reframed prior to the meeting and the group discussion methodology will be adapted to frame the discussions and ensure concrete outputs:

I) Inclusive Societies: Human development, social cohesion, and addressing inequalities

- What do you see as the biggest challenge(s) in advancing inclusive societies and tackling inequalities for Latin America and the Caribbean? Where do you see the main opportunities to address the key issues and to bring added value in doing so at regional level? (Please, identify the main three)
- In the framework offered by the RMIP-LAC, what type of EU initiatives could have the biggest impact on the areas related to human development, democratic governance, social inclusion and the fight against inequalities? How could they better benefit the most vulnerable and foster rights-based policies and actions, including gender-responsive agendas and considering displaced persons?
- What contribution could CSOs, including youth and women's organisations, and local authorities provide in the framework of this regional initiative? How could EU regional programmes benefit from a partnership with the above-mentioned actors?

II) Just Transitions in a context of Green and Digital Transformation

- Considering the Latin American and Caribbean context, how can the EU best identify opportunities to foster a more sustainable and inclusive economy in the region? what topics would you suggest to the EU as the most essential to contribute to more inclusive green and digital transitions at the regional level, making use of the opportunities offered by the EU-LAC Digital Alliance and the EU Green Deal actions in this regard?
- EU regional programming in these areas builds on the involvement of CSOs, including women and youth organisations, and local authorities, facilitating their participation in country/regional dialogues and in the implementation of actions at sub-national level. What are the modalities for inclusion of CSOs, including youth and women's organisations, and local authorities that seem to be working best in your region when it comes to green and digital transitions? What would you suggest to improve and/or complement them?
- How can we ensure that the efforts of civil society, academia, private sector, local authorities and institutional actors are well coordinated to achieve these shared goals? What ongoing or planned actions by CSOs, including youth and women's organisations, as well as local authorities can contribute to support a more inclusive and just (green and digital) transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean?

The event will be concluded by a wrap-up session.

Agenda

15h – 15h45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, introduction and feedback from last year's meeting • Presentation of the state of play of the Regional multi-annual indicative programme for the Americas and the Caribbean 2021-2027 • Presentation of the CELAC-EU roadmap 2022 2023
15h45 – 16h15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A to exchange on the strategy and regional programming



Policy Forum on Development

16h15 – 17h15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group discussions
17h15 – 17h45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from groups
17h45 – 18h	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wrap up and conclusions