



Concept Note

Side Event in the framework of the XV Meeting of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Feminist development cooperation policies: perspectives and priorities in Latin America and the Caribbean

Wednesday, November 9

13:15 to 14:45 Hrs. (Argentina Time)

Room: Catalinas, Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Objectives:

1. Promote a space for exchange between countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe that are implementing or designing feminist development cooperation policies.
2. Identify the region's priorities for achieving gender equality, women's autonomy and the guarantee of their rights and to move towards a care society, which can be promoted with feminist development cooperation policies.

BACKGROUND

The member states of ECLAC have made commitments at the meetings of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome gender inequalities through strengthened multilateralism. In the Regional Gender Agenda, they have committed to promote regional, South-South, and international cooperation in the areas of financing, technology, and capacity-building to advance towards gender equality and the guarantee of women's rights. Likewise, they have committed to ensuring that the position of the countries of the region in international debates on macroeconomic policies and trade, investment and financial agreements incorporate the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and its linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure that international standards in this area are aligned with the human rights of women ¹.

At the same time, several countries, in Europe, as well as in North America and Latin America and the Caribbean, have advanced in the formulation of feminist foreign and development cooperation policies in recent years. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico (2020) was the first country to join this

¹ See CEPAL (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe) (2022), «Agenda Regional de Género», [online] <<http://biblioguias.cepal.org/AgendaRegionalGenero/Buscador>>.

reorientation of policies, followed by Chile with its current government. Likewise, the German government, in its current legislature, committed itself to a feminist foreign and development policy from the ministries that deal with the fields of foreign and development policy; the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) respectively, in order to promote sustainable development and peace on a global level. In 2021, Spain launched its "Feminist Foreign Policy: promoting equality in Spanish foreign action," in which the country seeks to promote the rights of women and girls in their diversity through its international action.²

In this context, the commitment of the new management of the BMZ to a feminist development cooperation policy is an important boost on the path towards gender equality, which can not only contribute to approaching Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, but also has the potential to transform Germany's cooperation and international relations with Latin America and the Caribbean in a transformative way.

In this sense, as strategic partners, ECLAC and Germany will jointly develop the measure "Success criteria for a specific development cooperation policy for Latin America and the Caribbean". This aims to provide the BMZ with information from Latin America and the Caribbean on the success criteria that a new feminist development cooperation policy towards this region should include.

This will be achieved through exchanges, political and expert dialogues from the region and European cooperation partners, such as Germany and Spain.

The feminist approach questions power structures, including the structure of financing and traditional cooperation programs to advance towards the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Regional Gender Agenda. However, the current crises are testing the reorientation of feminist policies, which are just beginning their design or implementation in conceptual and structural terms. Globally, women, youth and girls are disproportionately affected by the direct and indirect consequences of the protracted crisis resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the worsening of the economic and social situation as a result of international crises in the energy, food and finance sectors, consequences of the war in Ukraine and the growing global challenges due to global climate change, disasters and the care crisis.

Given the need for transformative responses that address multiple crises, including the care crisis, the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is an ideal occasion to promote an initial debate on cooperation policies that contribute to moving towards a care society, within the framework of a new development style that promotes gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

² Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, 2021, "Política Exterior Feminista: Impulsando la Igualdad en la Acción Exterior Española", https://www.exteriores.gob.es/es/PoliticaExterior/Documents/2021_02_POLITICA%20EXTERIOR%20FEMINISTA.pdf: 5.

Preliminary program

- Moderator: Ana Gúezmes García, Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC

13:15 – 13:26	Opening by ECLAC and BMZ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christine Toetzke, Director General for Asia; South Eastern and Eastern Europe; Middle East and Latin America at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (virtually through web platform)• José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
13:26 – 14:00	First panel: challenges and priorities to promote feminist development cooperation to advance towards gender equality and the guarantee of women's rights <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christine Toetzke, Director General for Asia; South Eastern and Eastern Europe; Middle East and Latin America at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (virtually through web platform)• Laura Gil, Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia• Nadine Gasman, President of the National Institute of Women of Mexico (INMUJERES)• Natalia Gherardi, Expert of the Unidas Women's Network
14:00 – 14:30	Second panel: challenges and opportunities to increase financing and alliances to accelerate the fulfillment of the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucy Garrido, Articulación Feminista Marcosur• Luz Vidal Huiriqueo, Subsecretary of Women and Gender Equality of Chile

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilar Cancela Rodríguez, Secretary of State of International Cooperation of Spain
14:30 – 14:45	<p>Reflections, conclusions and closing</p> <p>Ana Gúezmes García, Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC</p>

Methodology

It is intended to generate an environment for reflection that allows identifying the challenges to design and implement feminist development cooperation policies, which can contribute as preliminary inputs for the BMZ.

It will be organized in two segments, the first of which will focus on the political and institutional challenges that must be taken into account in the process of designing and promoting a feminist development cooperation policy, and the second will address the financial challenges and alliances.

Participants

The participation of 100 people from countries in the region, as well as from Germany and Spain, is estimated. Likewise, the participation of representatives of civil society, in particular women's and feminist organizations and networks, and academia is expected.