

FINAL DECLARATION

I YOUTH SUMMIT

EUROPEAN UNION - LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

FUENLABRADA - MADRID (SPAIN) - 7 - 9 MAY 2010



The **I European Union – Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) Youth Summit**, preceeding the Heads of States and Governments Summit to be held in Madrid, on 18th May 2010, provides an important opportunity for youth organisations from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to address core challenges and strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between these regions on regional and global issues, contributing to the further development of the EU-LAC strategic partnership.

We the participants in the **I EU-LAC Youth Summit**:

FIRMLY BELIEVE that only by taking into consideration the valuable contribution that young people and youth organizations can give to the European, Latin American and Caribbean dialogue and cooperation, and through their full and effective participation in the process, will we be prepared to face these challenges and achieve the objectives of the EU-LAC strategic partnership, as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

WELCOME the EU-LAC effort to integrate in the process of the Summit other events promoted by civil society, namely by non-governmental youth organisations, offering them the chance to participate in the process, provide their valuable contribution and influence the final outcome.

CALL UPON European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments and International Institutions to pay particular attention to the following recommendations of the delegates of the **I EU-LAC Youth Summit**:

- To draw inspiration from the Ibero-American Convention on the rights of youth and acknowledge the need for adopting conventions on the rights of young people in Europe and the Caribbean.
- To take full advantage of the International Youth Year 2010-2011, and trigger a global debate on the rights of young people in the United Nations framework, leading to a global convention on youth rights.
- To increase the resources directed from the European Union cooperation to Latin America and the Caribbean prioritizing action plans directed to youth.
- To implement a global financial transaction tax and to ensure that any international financial agreements are based on the principle of self determination of countries and respect for human rights.
- To promote public policies that foster interculturality, multiculturality, transculturality and integration, both in formal and non-formal education, to avoid xenophobia, discrimination and racism.
- To create a binding, effective and coherent legal framework in order to adapt and mitigate climate change, food sovereignty, access to water and natural resources and to avoid the loss of bio-diversity. This legal framework should respect human rights, especially those of indigenous people, as a top priority, and guarantee sustainability as the new paradigm of global development. To achieve this objective it is essential to ensure the full and effective participation of young people in the decision making processes, its implementation and future evaluation. It is crucial that sustainability, as a value and as a practice, is implemented in society through formal and non formal education and interregional exchange and cooperation.

- To recognize the fundamental right to access new technologies and training for their use, contemplating pluralism and the different necessities, to improve educational quality and knowledge democratization.
- To promote new mechanisms of participation and communication, such as e-government, e-learning, e-business, among others; recognizing youth as strategic agents for development and for the reduction of the digital gap.
- To create and implement a legal framework against discrimination that guarantees equal rights in the three regions and penalizes discrimination based on gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, migration, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation and ensures full exercise of rights such as employment, goods and services, social and civil rights and education. This law should be accompanied by institutions to monitor their application and implementation.
- To establish, strengthen and implement mechanisms to contribute to the struggle against gender violence.
- To recognize, promote and strengthen independent and democratic local, national, regional and international youth councils, platforms and networks, creating valid representation and spaces for exchange between governments and youth organizations.
- To commit to the organization of youth summits, preceding Head of States and Governments intergovernmental meetings, which allow young people to voice their opinion and which include youth delegates, which have been selected by national or regional youth platforms in a democratic and transparent process.
- To empower young people by promoting and recognizing volunteering, creating an independent fund for regional and international programs and to create spaces on local, national, regional, and international levels for debates, cooperation and integration of youth and guaranteeing the right of association
- To guarantee the access to quality, integral, inclusive and secular education, adapted to the reality of each community that is free and compulsory to the last grade of secondary school; recognizing, validating and facilitating the cooperation with formal educational institutions at national and international level, according to the Resolution A/RES/64/130, to guarantee a dignified life.