JOINT DECLARATION OF THE CELAC-EU SUMMIT 2025

Santa Marta, Colombia

9 November 2025

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and of the European Union (EU) and the President of the European Council met in the city of Santa Marta, Republic of Colombia, on 9 November 2025 for the Fourth CELAC-EU Summit.

2. We welcome the last EU-CELAC Ministerial meeting that took place in New York on 24 September 2025 and the holding of the parallel events prior to this Summit – the 2025 LAC-EU Business Forum and the LAC-EU Civil Society Forum.

3. We welcome the substantial progress in the preparation of the bi-regional Roadmap and task the EU-CELAC coordination mechanism to finalise it for adoption ahead of the next EU-CELAC Ministerial meeting. The Roadmap will take forward our shared commitments and accelerate cooperation on climate action and environmental protection, energy transition and regional interconnections, boosting trade and economic flows and resilience, and deepening our joint efforts to tackle transnational organised crime.

4. We are driven by the will to deepen the historical ties that unite us, at a time when multilateralism is being questioned all over the world and there is a continued need for a more just, equitable and democratic international order.

5. In this spirit, we renew the strategic importance of a bi-regional relationship based on shared values and interests, resilient, inclusive, and democratic societies, the promotion, protection and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, free and transparent elections, multilateralism and international cooperation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, international law, and international humanitarian law.

6. We reiterate our unwavering commitment to democracy, including free, inclusive, transparent, and credible elections and freedom of expression, human rights, rule of law, international law and stress the importance of prioritising sustainable development. We emphasise the importance of all States adhering to fundamental norms of international conduct, notably those enshrined in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

7. We reaffirm our adherence to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the sovereign equality of States, respect for territorial integrity and political independence, non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes. We reiterate our opposition to the threat or use of force and stress the importance of prioritizing conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding as essential elements for lasting peace in both regions.

8. We reiterate our opposition to the threat or use of force and to any action not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to the promotion, protection, respect and full exercise of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, and interdependent. We are determined to combat all forms of discrimination, violence against women, and to promote gender equality and the full and meaningful participation of all persons, including children, women, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, older persons, and other groups in situations of vulnerability, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. We also recognise the role of civil society organisations and human rights defenders.

10. Noting that CELAC has declared itself as a Zone of Peace, committed to the settlement of disputes through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with international law, we recognise the ongoing efforts to achieve peace in the region, highlighting our support for the peace process in Colombia with the backing of the international community and the United Nations. We discussed the importance of maritime security and regional stability in the Caribbean. We agreed on the importance of international cooperation, mutual respect, and full compliance with

international law, including in combatting transnational organised crime and drug trafficking. Several CELAC member States emphasised their national positions regarding the situation in the Caribbean and the Pacific. We reiterate our commitment to strengthening mechanisms for dialogue, coordination, and technical assistance to jointly address these challenges.

11. We recognise the need to preserve the neutrality of the Panama Canal for global peace and stability, trade, and international cooperation.

12. We welcome the holding of the EU-Caribbean Leaders' Meeting on 10 November in Santa Marta as a tangible sign of the continued strong engagement between the European Union, including its outermost regions as well as Overseas Countries and Territories, and the Caribbean, given its specific needs, priorities, and interests.

13. We addressed the main challenges of the current international context. We noted with concern the adverse impact of the increasing number of wars and conflicts around the world. We reiterated our national positions on the ongoing wars and conflicts and underscored the urgent need to prioritise the peaceful settlement of disputes, diplomacy, and dialogue, in full respect of international law including the Charter of the United Nations. We expressed the need to ensure the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

14. We reiterate our deep concern over the ongoing war against Ukraine, which continues to cause immense human suffering. We support all efforts to achieve a sustainable ceasefire and to promote political dialogue aimed at a just, comprehensive and lasting peace and to promote de-escalation and to foster direct dialogue in accordance with international law, and in full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the peaceful settlement of disputes and the principle of territorial integrity and sovereignty.

15. We recognise the agreement reached on the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict, as well as the outcome of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit for Peace, held on 13 October 2025. In this regard, we recall the High-Level Conference for the Peaceful Settlement on the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, held in New York. We reiterate our unequivocal

condemnation of the 7 October 2023 terrorist attacks. We reiterate our firm condemnation of the escalation of violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, following the increased settler violence, the expansion of illegal settlements and Israel's military operation. We call on all parties to fully commit to implementing all phases of the Plan and to refrain from any actions that could jeopardise the agreement. To alleviate the dire humanitarian situation, we call for immediate, unimpeded access and sustain distribution of humanitarian aid at scale into and throughout Gaza. All parties must comply with international law, including international humanitarian law. We reiterate our strong commitment to a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, based on the two-state solution. We also reaffirm our commitment to the reconstruction and recovery of Gaza.

16. We reaffirm our support for Haiti and its efforts to achieve political, economic, and social stability, with the backing of the international community. We remain committed to continuing the fight against the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition destined for Haiti, in order to ensure stability, in accordance with the principles of self-determination of peoples, sovereignty, and solidarity. We take note of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2793, which paves the way for the transition of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) to a reinforced international force, and we encourage the strengthening of Haitian security forces, as well as contributions to the Gang Suppression Force and stabilisation efforts in Haiti.

17. Regarding the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands/Islas Malvinas the European Union took note of CELAC's historical position based on the importance of dialogue and respect for international law in the peaceful solution of disputes.

18. The countries that supported the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/7 of 29 October 2025, reiterate the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, as well as their opposition to laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects. The designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, and its maintenance on the list, has introduced obstacles to international financial transactions with the island.

REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

19. We underline the need to strengthen the multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core, and to promote a more effective, inclusive, transparent, and democratic global governance, in full respect of international law.

20. We support a comprehensive reform of the United Nations Security Council to make it more representative, inclusive and democratic, better reflecting current realities through the strengthening of the voice of underrepresented regions. In this regard, we reiterate our support for more inclusive decision-making institutions and forums. In the context of ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations system, we invite all member States to participate in the UN80 Initiative and support the implementation of the Pact for the Future. Likewise, we commit to strengthening our bi-regional cooperation and joining efforts to support the Secretary-General in his initiatives aimed at revitalizing multilateralism and enhancing coordination in relevant forums on issues of common interest.

21. The European Union takes note of the position expressed by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to have a national of the region serve as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

22. We commit to strengthening our cooperation to address regional and global challenges, taking into account, as applicable, internationally agreed commitments, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

23. Building on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) held in Seville, we reaffirm our commitment to the continued reform of the international financial architecture so that it may be more inclusive, representative, and effective, and to the effective use of all sources of financing for development and to explore options to address debt sustainability.

24. We reaffirm that Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains an essential component of international cooperation based on agreed commitments. We acknowledged the need for sustained efforts to reverse declining trends in ODA and to fulfill the longstanding target of 0.7% of gross national income, and between 0.15% and 0.2% for least developed countries.

25. We agreed to promote fairer, more inclusive and more effective international financial institutions that allocate resources adequately to development in its three dimensions and ensure greater representation of developing countries. In this regard, we recognise the importance of deepening cooperation between European and Latin American and Caribbean financial institutions with a view to expanding financing, fostering private sector participation, and adopting indicators beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that better reflect the realities and needs of all partner countries. In this context, we recognise the complementary value of South-South, North-South, and CELAC-EU trilateral and triangular cooperation.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

26. We reiterate our commitment to a rules-based multilateral trading system grounded in international law, that is open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and predictable, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. We commit to working together on the reform and modernization of the WTO in order to equip it with the necessary capacities to respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

27. We acknowledge the strategic importance of agreements fostering closer economic and trade ties and enhancing economic security and prosperity. We welcome the recent entry into force of the agreements between the EU and Chile, Central America, and Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and firmly support the swift accession of Croatia to the latter agreement. We will continue taking the necessary steps to expand and deepen the network of trade agreements between our two regions.

28. We highlight the importance of advancing jointly in the reduction of trade tensions, in facilitating international trade, in improving market access, and in ensuring food security. We underscore the need to maintain channels of dialogue that allow for addressing the implications of trade barriers and to promote the economic and social wellbeing of the communities involved in international supply chains.

29. We welcome the development and collaborative potential of the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda, as an instrument for the implementation of mutually beneficial partnerships, within the framework of development in its three dimensions based on real co-ownership and high standards aimed at the wellbeing of our

peoples, while taking into account the shared priorities of both regions, in those States participating in the initiative.

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY TRANSITION

30. We welcome and pledge our support to the successful holding of the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), in Belém do Pará, Brazil. We reiterate that our collective efforts on climate action must be aligned with all the goals of the Paris Agreement, the principles that govern it and its effective implementation, including the efforts to mobilise additional finance for developing countries. In this context, we renew our commitment to ambitious climate action, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, promoting a just transition, poverty eradication, community resilience, and decent work. We recognise the impacts of climate change on all countries, especially on vulnerable developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, landlocked developing countries and other categories of vulnerable developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and acknowledge the need for urgent actions to scale up whole-of-society adaptation.

31. We recognise the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 1.5°C trajectory and will intensify our efforts accordingly in line with the Paris Agreement. We recognise the importance of just transition pathways through solid enabling policies, such as carbon pricing, among others, to achieve national targets and the Paris goals, in light of different national circumstances. We emphasise the need to restore and protect natural resources and ecosystems, particularly water, and recognise that this can only be done through regional and international cooperation.

32. We take note of the forthcoming entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) within the framework of the United Nations, as well as the offers of Chile (Valparaíso) and Belgium (Brussels) to host the Secretariat of the Agreement.

33. We agree to advance the value chain of sargassum in the Greater Caribbean as a priority area of bi-regional cooperation, promoting innovative approaches that transform environmental challenges into opportunities for sustainable industries, job creation, and climate resilience. We welcome the potential support that the European Union could provide, through Global Gateway, to increase private investment and develop sargassum as a key component of a sustainable bioeconomy.

34. We also highlight the importance of promoting training and retraining in the field of a low-carbon economy, enabling workers and all communities to fully benefit.

35. We recognise the opportunities that energy transition brings for sustainable and just economic development. In this context, we will harness the potential of the Global Gateway strategy to strengthen regional energy interconnection in Latin America and the Caribbean and to promote the integration of secure, sustainable, and low-carbon energy sources.

COOPERATION ON CITIZEN SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME

36. We welcome the progress achieved in our dialogue and cooperation on citizen security, while recognising that today's growing challenges demand joint comprehensive, cross-sectoral strategies. We reaffirm our determination to scale up bi-regional efforts at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels to address common citizen security challenges and strengthen the rule of law.

37. We will strengthen joint initiatives on citizen security, in particular through the EU-LAC Partnership on Justice and Security, in which States participate voluntarily, addressing all forms of transnational organised crime. We underscore our shared priority to enhance cooperation in dismantling transnational criminal networks, especially those involved in the illicit trafficking of drugs, firearms, ammunition and explosives, cybercrime, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, illegal mining, crimes that affect the environment, illicit trafficking of cultural property, and financial crimes. We will promote maritime security and strengthen port security, the resilience of logistics hubs, and evidence-based inter-institutional approaches, with full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and international law.

38. We recognise that the global drug problem requires a joint response based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, with a balanced, comprehensive, integrated, and evidence-based approach, in accordance with international law, in particular the International Narcotics Control Regime. We value the role of the CELAC–EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs and support the objectives of the La Paz Declaration.

FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTH

39. We reaffirm our commitment to the eradication of hunger, poverty, and all forms of malnutrition and undernutrition, in accordance with the right to adequate food.

40. We highlight the importance of strengthening continuous access to affordable and nutritious food production and supply chains by boosting the productivity, sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Likewise, we will promote food production models that are more resilient. We reaffirm the value of promoting food security and underscore the need to foster broader access to innovation in the sector. In this context, we highlight the importance of international cooperation in this area and initiatives such as the SAN CELAC Plan and the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty.

41. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the health self-sufficiency of both regions, taking into account the CELAC Health Self-Sufficiency Plan, through a CELAC-EU bi-regional partnership that promotes the development of local capacities in the production of vaccines, medicines, and other health technologies. We also underscore the importance of applied research, technology and innovation, and the consolidation of resilient supply chains, as well as advancing strategies aimed at building an accessible pharmaceutical market in Latin America and the Caribbean, open to voluntary participation, based on the various ongoing initiatives derived from this plan.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

42. We will promote safe, secure, and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence and its ethical governance, with a responsible and inclusive focus, investment into secure digital infrastructure and capacity building, and advocate for a human-centric, secure, and open digital transformation. We reaffirm our commitment to respect, protect, and

promote all human rights in the digital space, including through due diligence and impact assessments throughout the entire life cycle of technology, taking into account national regulatory frameworks and the sovereign right of each State to decide its technological development policies.

43. We recognise the progress made by the EU-LAC Digital Alliance, launched in 2023 under the Global Gateway strategy, which fosters collaboration, investments, and exchange of best practices between the EU and the LAC region, such as the high-performance computing network and the last kilometre satellite connectivity.

44. We recognise the need to address and counter disinformation and misinformation, as well as hate speech, including those that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination particularly in digital environments, cooperating with all relevant stakeholders through the dissemination of reliable, verifiable, objective, and contextualized information.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CARE SYSTEMS

45. We reaffirm the importance of fostering social inclusion, healthy and safe working conditions, and equality. In this context, we acknowledge the importance of enhancing bi-regional cooperation to reduce inequalities and improve social cohesion, including through the design and implementation of public policies aimed at strengthening care systems.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

46. We reaffirm that supporting life-long education, vocational training, and research is essential to create the knowledge, skills, and innovation that guarantee the social and economic development of our societies and their adaptation to global challenges and transformations. In this respect, we recall the EU-CELAC Ministerial Declaration and a New Agenda for Cooperation in Research and Innovation, signed on 29 September 2025, which supports stronger cooperation in research and innovation. We reaffirm our commitment to deepening cultural, scientific, and academic exchanges between the two regions through initiatives such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe.

MIGRATION

47. We agreed on the importance of strengthening our cooperation on migration management, including returns, and we recall our commitment to deepening cooperation and dialogue on migration and mobility in a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced manner, grounded in shared responsibility and commitment for regular, safe, and orderly migration, in line with national competences and in full respect of international law and human rights. We reiterate the importance of regional migration dialogue frameworks.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS AND CULTURE

48. We are committed to preserve and enhance our cultural and natural heritage. We agree to work together to maximise the potential of our regions' diverse cultural expressions, vibrant creative industries for sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue. People-to-people contacts are essential for our partnership. The relationship between the EU and LAC includes unique human and cultural links that should be nurtured and intensified.

49. Parliamentary diplomacy is a key component of our bi-regional relationship, including through the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) and the parliamentary friendship groups established at the national level with European and Latin American and Caribbean countries.

50. We take note of the designation of 2026 as the "Commemorative Year of the Bicentennial of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama".

51. We welcome the work of the EU-LAC International Foundation, which has continued to make significant contributions to the bi-regional dialogue and cooperation, and we look forward to continuing to support its work.

CLOSING

52. We express our gratitude to the Republic of Colombia for its hospitality and leadership during its Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and reaffirm our agreement to maintain a high-level political dialogue on a biennial basis, through the future holding of the Fifth EU-CELAC Summit in 2027 in Brussels, meetings at ministerial level, and a consultative coordination mechanism between the EU and CELAC to ensure

continuity and follow-up of the Roadmap for 2025-2027 and between high-level meetings.

The Argentine Republic dissociates from paragraphs 10, 15, 18, 42, 44, the reference to “gender” in paragraph 9, the reference to “Pact for the Future” from paragraph 20 and the reference to “Agenda 20230 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals SDGs” in paragraph 22; the Republic of Costa Rica dissociates from paragraphs 10 and 18; the Republic of Ecuador dissociates from paragraphs 10, 15 and 18; the Republic of El Salvador dissociates from paragraphs 10 and 18; the Republic of Panama dissociates from paragraphs 10 and 15; the Republic of Paraguay dissociates from paragraphs 10, 15, 18, 20, 22 and 44; the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago dissociates from paragraph 10 and from the reference to “We reiterate the importance of regional migration dialogue frameworks” in paragraph 47; the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela withdraws from the declaration.