

A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS

POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE S&D GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA

We, members of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists&Democrats in the European Parliament, on the occasion of the Latin America Day, reaffirming the long-standing political, historical and cultural affinities with the peoples of Latin America, shared vision of a socially just, democratic and inclusive society and acknowledging our common challenges with the Latin American progressives:

1. Recognize the fact that Latin America was one of the continents most severely hit by the devastating effects of the pandemic, particularly on the most vulnerable of its people, including severe loss of life, deep contraction of economic activity, exacerbation of inequalities and increasing stress on the region's democratic system; express deep sympathy and condolences to all those affected by the pandemic;
2. Express strong support for deepened Latin American political, economic and social integration in all its forms, including on sub-regional level. This acquires particular relevance in the world increasingly shaped by multifaceted relationships and rivalries between the three big economic blocs: European Union, United States and China. Only an integrated Latin America, with its unique and united voice, harnessing the region's natural resources and human capital would have a strong and sovereign presence in the shifting global environment; strongly support therefore any tangible advances towards a true Latin American Union and call for revitalization of the EU-CELAC summits as a way to foster the bi-regional cooperation; emphasize the role of the EU-ROLAT Parliamentary Assembly as a key vehicle for inter-parliamentary diplomacy;
3. Actively support and promote effective multilateral cooperation as the only realistic answer to the multiple global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, financial crimes, fight against inequalities and exclusion etc. As progressives, we firmly reject nationalist reflexes trying to solve the complex challenges with inward-looking isolationist measures. This approach includes a reform of the existing multilateral institutions, such as United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund, among others, which should reflect the geopolitical shifts occurring in the world and duly reflect the voices of Latin America;
4. Strongly believe that eradication of poverty is a top priority for Latin American societies. The fight against inequalities and exclusion should form the backbone of the programs of the progressive forces in Europe and Latin America and the cooperation between them. Socialist and social-democratic forces should be able to offer attractive platforms around which to build broad-based progressive coalitions with social and political actors that share our core concern about the social justice;
5. Are fully convinced that a just global fiscal order is indispensable to empower the Latin American states and governments to pursue progressive, redistributive policies. Promotion of social cohesion and justice can only be viable if it is adequately endowed financially. A sound global financial governance is a public good as the absence of social justice leads to erosion of stability, democratic values, human rights, good governance and individual freedoms, and increases the likelihood of international conflicts;
6. Consider that all trade arrangements between the EU and regional integration projects in Latin America, should envisage scrupulous respect for human rights, labor, environmental and social rights, including those of the indigenous peoples, and serve the purpose of reducing inequalities in Latin America; strongly support the finalization of the renewal of the Agreements with Mexico and Chile, and encourage to engage civil society actors from both EU and Mercosur countries in order to find the necessary provisions to ensure the future signature and ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement when governments in the region truly commit to strong environmental policies;
7. Reaffirm strong commitment to working together with Latin American partners on the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda-2030 as a blueprint for socially and environmentally sustainable progress, as well as cooperation for a digital transition that leaves no one behind;
8. Consider the Latin American progressives our natural allies in promoting human rights, civil liberties, racial and gender justice. Feminism is one of the distinctive features of the progressives, and gender equality is a top priority. A number of Latin American countries made inspiring strides towards women empowerment, sexual and reproductive health rights, the rights of the LGBTQI people. Expansion of rights and freedoms is an indispensable part of the progressive identity. So is the right to dignity, intimacy, and privacy of every human being. Latin American progressives are our natural allies in fighting for robust data protection regulations;
9. Firmly reject an imposition of unilateral crippling economic sanctions with an extra-territorial effect with the aim of regime change in a number of countries in Latin America. While ostensibly seeking to weaken authoritarian regimes, such as those in Cuba and Venezuela, such sanctions only punish the civilian population, by subjecting it to double oppression by their own rulers and foreign powers. Such policies of pressure are having particularly noxious impact during the pandemic. Progressives should work for democracy, human rights, rule of law and fight corruption in all Latin American countries and support targeted sanctions against human rights abusers while denouncing and opposing the sweeping economic sanctions that only harm the population;
10. Denounce the use of the double standards and politicization of the human rights by the political right in both Latin America and Europe; strongly condemn attempts by Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro to undermine the country's democratic institutions with policies fueling hatred and division, as well as the crimes of the far-right paramilitary groups and refusal of the extreme right to accept the legitimacy of the left's electoral victories in other countries of Latin America; at the same time, strongly condemns the human rights violations in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua; reiterate our call to fight against impunity and policies fueling polarization and exclusion; strongly support the full implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia.