



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: LEADING THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE CRISES

Oxfam's recommendations
for the Spanish EU Presidency
(July-December 2023)



OXFAM

INTRODUCTION

In recent years a chain of successive crises - from the 2008 economic crisis and ensuing Great Recession, to the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the increasingly adverse effects of global warming - have threatened progress towards a fairer, more peaceful, and sustainable future. However, these years have also shown that governments have a choice in the face of such shocks. A progressive response is possible.

For example, in 2008, European institutions opted for austerity that resulted in severe cuts to public services, whereas in 2020, the European Union (EU) launched an expansive recovery plan financed by EU debt and a temporary suspension of the Stability and Growth Pact. Such a strategy would have previously been considered impossible.

There is no doubt that Spain will assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU in a challenging context; under the shadow of political and economic uncertainty, the deterioration of democracy and multilateralism, and the invasion of Ukraine that has exacerbated food and energy price increases and a severe hunger crisis. However, the Spanish government has also proven it can show effective leadership in the face of great difficulties. For example, they played a role in the negotiation of the Next Generation EU fund and promoted the electricity market intervention (together with Portugal) that contained inflation in Spain, and put the measure on the table for discussion at European level.

During the six months of its Presidency (July to December 2023), the Spanish government has the opportunity to set a course for the EU. It can push for the political agreements needed to implement a truly transformative agenda, both within the EU and through its strategic relationship with the wider world.

This document sets out Oxfam's recommendations for the Spanish Presidency. It outlines a number of priorities and proposals that take a long-term view on how to move towards a fairer and more sustainable European Union. We seek to answer urgent questions, like how to tax the excess profits of large companies in a more ambitious and permanent way to finance the response to current and future crises. But we also seek to address the crucial underlying structural problems, such as our unsustainable and unjust energy system that creates dependence on the authoritarian regimes of fossil fuel producing countries and drives extractivism.

Our proposals cover three core areas:

I. SOCIAL COHESION AND PROTECTION: A EUROPE THAT CARES AND PROTECTS

The Spanish Presidency must strengthen measures to protect the most vulnerable communities and ensure security and social cohesion. This means strengthening the *European Pillar of Social Rights* (especially policies relating to employment and care) and promoting **progressive taxation** to provide states with the resources they need to fight inequality and invest in welfare systems.

II. SOCIOECONOMIC MODEL: A GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE, AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE EUROPE

The Spanish Presidency must lead a *fair energy transition* that is guided by a new economic and environmental paradigm and a shift from fossil fuels to clean energy. Steps must be taken to ensure this does not widen existing social and geographical inequalities or generate new ones. The Presidency must also secure an ambitious *sustainable corporate governance* agenda, including due diligence legislation that protects human rights and the environment wherever European companies operate.

III. THE EU IN THE WORLD: A LESS SELF-CENTRED EUROPE

The Spanish Presidency must prioritize *migration and asylum policies* that respect human rights, and welcome those who seek international protection on European soil with safe and dignified conditions. The Presidency must also *build a bi-regional agenda with Latin America and the Caribbean* that goes beyond the traditional focus on trade, and develops an equal partnership for just transitions. Finally, it must give civil and political impetus to a *new governance model for the Sahel region* that is focused on peacebuilding, strengthening civil society, and ensuring decent living standards for all.

The Spanish government must also commit to listening, and to social dialogue before, during and after their Presidency. It is essential for wider society to understand and engage in the search for solutions to today's challenges. We therefore encourage the Spanish government to create spaces for civil society and citizen participation in the priorities of the European agenda, and to hold a broader discussion on the model of society we want.



RECOMMENDATIONS

SOCIAL COHESION AND PROTECTION: A EUROPE THAT CARES AND PROTECTS

1. Strengthen the European Pillar of Social Rights

In recent years, successive crises have driven up inequality and poverty, pushing societies around the world to their limits. The 2008 economic crisis, and the ensuing Great Recession brought a decade of austerity, and just as these scars were starting to heal, the world was hit by the pandemic and the worst consequences of the invasion of Ukraine. These recent crises have once again demonstrated **the need for robust social protection systems that ensure the most vulnerable people do not fall through the cracks.**

The impact of these crises has increased inequalities, as detailed in several Oxfam reports, such as

Survival of the Richest, 2023. While big energy, food, pharmaceutical, and technology companies have reported excessive windfall profits, large sections of the population have seen their income, purchasing power, and access to basic rights decimated. The health emergency and economic crisis of the pandemic hit them first, followed by soaring prices, and the erosion of welfare states.

The economic and social impact of the war in Ukraine, and the lasting effects of the Coronavirus, make **the strengthening of the European Pillar of Social Rights the only way to offer the European people the certainty and security they need.** Policies to combat inequality and poverty are feasible; they do not have to come at the expense of public budget sustainability.



Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

1.1. Strengthen predistribution policies at European level, especially those related to employment. Tackling job insecurity, especially among the most vulnerable groups (such as women, migrant population, and young people), must be at the heart of EU labour market policy and production systems. This means, for example, considering the conclusions of the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative 2014-2020 evaluation which is due in the third quarter of 2023. The EU must also make more progress on guaranteeing living wages in all Member States (as indicated in the recently adopted *Directive 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages*). In addition, the EU must promote policies that mitigate the impact of income crises, and enable households to regain their purchasing power.

1.2. Promote redistributive policies that strengthen social cohesion through appropriate basic minimum income policies, and the adoption of universal social protection measures (including universal child benefits, and protection for people experiencing in-work poverty). The conclusions of the first EU report on access to essential services (scheduled for 2023) will be relevant to this important issue, as will the implementation of the Council's recommendations on minimum income.

1.3. Broaden the framework and scope of the European Care Strategy, going beyond a welfare approach and incorporating the right to care as a guiding policy principle. The EU and its Member States must develop comprehensive, sustainable, universal care systems, and provide them with sufficient resources. These systems must address the diversity of care needs at every stage of life. The EU must also defend public and community systems against commercialisation, encourage cultural change to help reverse the unfair distribution and invisibility of care, which is often gendered. Measuring and promoting the huge value of informal care work (especially unpaid care) would support this. Finally, the EU must take steps to ensure decent conditions for all workers in the care sector. All of this requires appealing to the shared responsibility of governments, businesses and civil society.

2. Strengthen fairer taxation to address multiple crises

Spain will assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU at a time of great uncertainty about Europe's fiscal sustainability. This requires EU Member States to commit to a radical shift in the tax framework and fiscal rules and to take urgent action to deliver on this agenda.

The ongoing economic slowdown, and the cost-of-living crisis, urgently require a financial injection to fund social protection measures to mitigate the impact on most

vulnerable households, as well as on small and medium-sized enterprises. The question is, where will the additional revenues to tackle inequality and mitigate the economic impact on vulnerable households come from?

The European Commission has launched a discussion on the *2050 Tax Mix*; this process must consider both emergency crisis-response tax measures, as well as the need to address structural gaps in corporate and wealth taxation, and windfall profits. Recent tax reforms undertaken in Spain can serve as a model for wider tax reform at European level.

► Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

2.1. Activate a tax package to tackle the inflation crisis. Spain has adopted two temporary taxes on windfall profits in the energy and banking sectors, which is a positive first step, in line with the EU agreement of 'solidarity contributions' on fossil fuel companies. Looking to the future, it is crucial to consolidate this European mechanism and make it permanent, so it can quickly and automatically raise substantial additional revenue in times of crisis. For this to be effective:

The windfall profit tax should be extended to all economic sectors where windfall profits accrue in times of crisis. It should also be made automatic, and a more ambitious tax rate of 50 to 90% should be applied.

The tax base should be calculated on the basis of all EU corporate profits, with formulary apportionment applied (to distribute the profit according to a company's real economic activity in a country), to prevent profit shifting to tax aggressive jurisdictions that facilitate 'tax dumping'.

2.2. Consolidate the corporate taxation package. Spain has the opportunity to build consensus towards a fairer tax future for the EU, **breaking away from the aggressive tax competition of some governments, and pressure from large corporations.**

Oxfam proposes:

- Building consensus for the application of a European minimum corporate tax rate (pillar 2) of more than 15%, and preventing aggressive tax practices.
- Raising the bar, by committing to an ambitious BEFIT (Business in Europe: Framework for Income Taxation) to compensate for the weaknesses of the OECD and G20 global deal, such as the insufficient 15% minimum corporate tax rate.
- Strengthening the criteria for drawing up an EU tax havens blacklist and the identification of harmful tax practices, and improving the governance and transparency of the Code of Conduct Group for Business Taxation responsible for this.
- Delivering a comprehensive and ambitious European Directive to prevent the misuse of shell companies, and regulate the role of financial intermediaries and other actors that facilitate tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning (*i.e.*, tax enablers).

2.3. Lead on a new European agenda to tax wealth and capital income.

Taxing wealth and capital income is still a major policy gap at EU level. Little progress has been made so far except on the automatic exchange of information for tax purposes, and the commitment to public registries of beneficial ownership (the implementation of which has been delayed due to major operational difficulties and recently invalidated by an ECJ decision).¹

Spain is one of the few countries that has implemented domestic net wealth taxes, addressed internal tax competition, and improved the progressivity of capital income and capital gains taxes. Building on this experience and leadership, **Oxfam proposes:**

- Convening a major European conference on taxing wealth and capital income as part of the *2050 Tax Mix agenda*.
- Linking this debate to green taxation, including how to fund climate action, and energy transition programs.
- Encouraging the European Commission to investigate harmful tax practices in wealth taxation, (building on a similar approach regarding corporate taxation), including a European Assets Register to identify and track offshore wealth.

SOCIOECONOMIC MODEL: A GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE, AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE EUROPE

3. Promote a just energy transition and a new economic and environmental paradigm

Our current energy production and consumption model is at the heart of the climate crisis. More than 70 countries, including the EU Member States, have made commitments to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. These countries account for 90% of global GDP and are responsible for 80% of carbon dioxide emissions.²

The crises in recent years have accelerated the need to find **an alternative to last century's paradigm of progress** based on unbridled economic growth, and the intensive use of fossil fuels as well as subsidies for their production. Time is running out. **Decarbonisation and a transition to clean energy cannot be delayed any longer.** This transition is inherently linked to social justice; 31 million people in the EU were affected by energy poverty at the end of 2019,³ and the

situation has only got worse since then, particularly due to the war in Ukraine.

During its Presidency, Spain must push for energy transition that is fair, accessible, equitable and sustainable in the EU, but that also respects fair opportunities in the global South. This must happen in the framework of the **European Green Deal**, through a review of climate legislation to meet the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 65% by 2030.⁴ In addition though, the **REPowerEU** plan must be strengthened, by promoting energy savings, improving energy security and diversifying sources of supply across Europe. These measures, if coupled with a real desire to make fundamental social and economic changes in our societies, will make it possible to reconfigure existing production and consumption models. Europe must also strengthen external relations and improve trade patterns to ensure sustainable and fair outcomes, and avoid trade agreements with authoritarian regimes that would exacerbate the violation of human rights.



Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

3.1. Lead the shift toward a new energy system in Europe by pushing for real change in the productivity matrix, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, and making the shift to clean energy. To achieve this in a fair way, it will be necessary to pool efforts to meet the transaction costs of change (probable increase of prices, energy poverty, changes in sectors such as housing, transport, etc.). Spain could also help to build a group of pioneering progressive states, free of fossil fuels, to negotiate jointly in multilateral fora.

3.2. Promote discussion on the principles necessary to make the transition truly fair, accessible, equitable and sustainable, with a gender-based perspective.⁵ The ultimate objective would be to adapt the European regulatory framework and external relations in line with these principles:

- Effective participation of individuals, households, and communities most affected by the transition in discussions and decisions on the measures adopted. Particular attention must be given to the inclusion of women, young people, traditionally marginalized groups, and representatives of the primary sector.
- Fair distribution of the responsibilities, capabilities, costs and benefits of the transition.
- Recognition and prevention of the injustices suffered by certain social groups in the access to, use of, and control of, the technology and resources needed for the transition.
- Fair reparation or compensation to affected communities and sectors, through the design of social safety nets, and the protection of territories against new forms of "green extractivism".

3.3 Support countries in the Global South in accessing clean, accessible, and reliable energy.⁶ Recognising the role Spain has had in recent climate finance negotiations, it can now play a key role within the EU in formalising multilateral mechanisms that identify, finance and evaluate, with a gender perspective, the needs and priorities of the countries of the Global South. In this way, it would also be involved in promoting a just energy transition in these countries.

Spain can play a leadership role in this debate, **both within the EU and with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean**, by holding a Summit between the two regions to share experiences of energy transition and make future commitments for change on this agenda.

4. Champion an ambitious agenda of sustainable corporate governance

In today's economic system, which is built on complex value chains, **many companies have been able to derive great benefit by exploiting people and planet.** To meet the economic, social, and ecological challenges of the energy transition, the negative impact of business on human rights and the environment must be addressed and companies must be held responsible for their impacts. Self-regulation

has failed to ensure companies take responsibility for damage they cause. Binding mechanisms are needed to ensure sustainable corporate governance to protect people and planet from abuse by these companies.

In February 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a *Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence*.⁷ The Council adopted its position on the proposal in December 2022.⁸ The European Parliament should adopt its position in the first half of 2023, and negotiations on the final text of the legislation should take place during the Spanish Presidency.

► Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

4.1. Promote the adoption of an ambitious and effective Directive to defend human and environmental rights within the EU and beyond, meeting the following criteria:

- **Scope:** The regulation should apply to all companies, including the financial sector, according to their size and exposure to risk (as established by the UN and the OECD). It should also cover their entire global value chain. Due diligence obligations should cover companies' purchasing practices and pricing strategies, as well as their business models, and should respect the right to a living wage for people in the value chain. Moreover, due diligence should not be limited to "established business relations," but should apply to all business relationships, based on an assessment of the severity and likelihood of negative impacts.
- **Justice and effective remedy:** Although the proposal includes a civil liability regime, it fails to remove important legal barriers to ensure victims can access justice, or to include other forms of effective remedy beyond economic compensation. The Directive should also include the responsibility of directors to oversee due diligence processes.

- **Gender perspective:** The Directive should include an obligation to identify and assess the specific impact on the human rights of women and girls.
- **Climate commitment:** The environmental and climate impact of businesses are not adequately addressed; companies should be required to identify, prevent, and mitigate adverse climate impacts as part of their due diligence process.

4.2 Lead by example by passing national due diligence legislation on human and environmental rights. The best way to lead a European regulatory process in sustainable corporate governance is through a national law that creates an ambitious standard. In this regard, the adoption of the draft law proposed by the Ministry of Social Rights on the protection of human rights, sustainability and due diligence in transnational business activities, would put Spain at the forefront of such regulations in Europe and worldwide.

III

THE EU IN THE WORLD: A LESS SELF-CENTERED EUROPE

5. Ensure migration and asylum policies that respect human rights

At a time of great international upheaval, and of increased politicisation of migration, the EU Presidency represents an opportunity for Spain to lead negotiations on the **European Pact on Migration and Asylum** (2020), and related policies such as migration conditionality in development

aid through the implementation of the EU's development budget (Global Europe / NDICI).

The EU and its Member States must promote an EU migration and asylum system that respects the fundamental rights of people on the move, without discrimination. They must welcome people seeking protection in Europe in safety and dignity, and provide access to a fair and timely asylum procedure, and cooperate to share responsibility effectively.

► Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

5.1. Promote the adoption of a mandatory solidarity mechanism that prioritizes relocation. EU Member States, led by the Med5 countries (Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and Malta), must finally reach an agreement to share the responsibility of protecting and welcoming asylum seekers in Europe. This must be in the form of a binding agreement, that prioritizes mandatory relocation quotas that cannot be exchanged for containment, border security, returns or other harmful measures that are wrongly labelled as 'solidarity'.

5.2. Ensure independent border monitoring mechanisms that respect human rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The European Pact on Migration and Asylum provides for the creation of an Independent Border Monitoring Mechanism (IBMM) at Europe's borders. However, there has been little progress on these mechanisms since 2020, while enforced returns and rights violations of people crossing the EU's internal and external borders are widespread.

The Spanish Presidency must use its mandate to present an action plan to establish these mechanisms throughout the EU, regardless of the Pact's legislative advances (*Screening Regulation*). To accomplish this, it should take lessons learned in Greece⁹ and Croatia¹⁰ into account, include civil society recommendations, and pay particular attention to the mechanism's independence, scope, transparency, and justiciability. It should also consider the consequences in the case of non-compliance by Member States.

5.3. Monitor migration conditionality in Official Development Assistance (ODA). One of the clearest and most worrisome examples of border externalisation is the misuse of ODA by Member States and the EU, to achieve their domestic political interests on migration control and the readmission of migrants. This comes at the expense of ODA meeting its primary purpose; fighting poverty and building resilience. Therefore, the Spanish Presidency must promote the monitoring, transparency, and increased democratic scrutiny of ODA spending on migration-related projects, particularly with regard to the Global Europe / NDICI's 10% migration marker.¹¹ Spain must ensure that:

- Only activities with the main objective of promoting the economic development and wellbeing of migrants in partner countries should be classified as ODA.
- ODA is not allowed to function as a tool to promote the domestic political interests of donors, for example, as a form of reward for readmission quotas or as an alternative to meeting relocation quotas. Curbing the mobility of people can have a detrimental impact on development, hence such activities contradict ODA's main objective of eradicating poverty, as set out in the EU Treaty, as well as the EU's commitment to Policy Coherence for Development.
- ODA should integrate and support the migration and development approach in EU development programming as per its objective, in a structured, rights-based way to increase communities' resilience.¹²

6. Build a new bi-regional agenda with Latin America and the Caribbean

Historically, political and economic relations, and development cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have been unequal. Initiating a new type of relationship with LAC in 2023, that goes beyond traditional trade and investment interests, is a shared challenge for Spain and for the wider EU. In an international context of multiple crises, this is a key moment for both regions to define their position in the international system, as well as their relationship with their

societies. The 2023 EU-CELAC Summit (coming eight years after the previous event) offers an opportunity during the Presidency, as does the forthcoming *New Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Spain has the opportunity to improve the terms of the relationship between the two regions, by advocating for this *New Agenda* to move towards a **more equal horizontal partnership, based on an alignment of interests and a recognition of their respective potential and vulnerabilities**. The goal should be to work together so that this new agenda focuses on just transitions. To do this, it will be necessary to open up inclusive, safe and diverse spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue.

► Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

6.1. Put just transitions (green, digital and socio-economic), the protection of civic space, and the care economy at the core of the New Agenda for LAC and the EU-CELAC Summit. This means establishing clear objectives for implementation, financing and follow-up mechanisms. The road map for this should promote bi-regional political dialogues that ensure genuine and effective participation of civil society in both regions.

6.2. Support LAC in tackling the challenge of migration management¹³ by financing integration programs among host and migrant communities, providing resources for humanitarian responses, promoting more flexible migration policies that guarantee the rights of migrants, and supporting the fulfilment of global and regional regulatory frameworks (e.g. the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees).

6.3. Include targets, milestones, mechanisms and guarantees for the protection of civic space, inequality reduction, due diligence, and the fight against the climate emergency in the Global Gateway initiative.¹⁴

6.4. Support the creation of a Latin American regional initiative to coordinate on tax policies and standards and pave the way towards a new Fiscal Pact for a fairer, greener LAC. For the EU, this would mean indicating institutional support for the initiative, including the participation of civil society, and increasing resource allocation to support progressive tax reforms (including taxing wealth, and in combating tax evasion and avoidance by large corporations).

6.5. Maintain the Development in Transition approach in European cooperation with LAC,¹⁵ with a multidimensional, innovative approach that goes beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of progress. European cooperation with LAC must guarantee the recognition of structural gaps in the region that GDP does not take into account, and a commitment to innovative alliances and instruments.

7. Lead the civil and political leap forward for a new governance model in the Sahel region

The Sahel region is given significant emphasis in Spanish foreign policy with a focus on issues of security and migration policy.¹⁶ There are several reasons why it enjoys this significance; its post-colonial development, the rise of anti-Western sentiment among its citizens, and the region's strategic ties with powers such as China, Turkey, and more recently, Russia.¹⁷

The framework of the new EU strategy for the Sahel¹⁸ is focused on a **political and governance pact** that goes beyond military intervention, which has failed to provide a response to the growing social, political, and economic divide in the last decade. Within this, the Spanish Presidency must promote a **partnership that puts interests and rights of the Sahel's population and civil society at its heart**. This must be based on an analysis of the structural economic, social, and gender inequalities that have caused a breakdown of the social contract between governments and their citizens. This breakdown is at the root of many of today's problems in the region, such as violence and forced displacement.

► The EU must base its action on three pillars:

Protecting **civic space**, to improve government accountability and good governance in the face of this multidimensional crisis.

Promoting **social cohesion and peacebuilding** based on local initiatives, such as ensuring access to basic services.

Addressing **the causes and impact of the food crisis** through immediate measures and by tackling structural issues in the food production and distribution system, including action deal with the **climate crisis**.



Oxfam's recommendations to the Spanish Presidency:

7.1. Promote diversified leadership of the Coalition for the Sahel. Spain must play a role in revitalizing this platform by championing a civil agenda, overcoming the highly militarized approach (that has clearly failed), and promoting European leadership that goes beyond the region's bilateral relations with France. The civil agenda must include access to essential services, the rule of law, good governance, the protection of civil society space, and the provision of humanitarian aid in line with international standards. All of this must be based on the meaningful participation of all sectors of civil society, particularly women and youth.

7.2. Organise a forum with civil society in the region. Creating a space for dialogue and consultation between EU decision-makers and Sahelian civil society would help to ensure that EU-Sahel policies support the rebuilding of social contracts in the region. The forum could also serve to build a more equitable relationship between the regions. It would be crucial for the EU to support the outcomes of such a forum with concrete political and financial commitments, as well as providing the necessary support to address the current humanitarian and food crisis.

7.3. A participatory evaluation of the EU strategy for the Sahel. Given the EU's commitment to include regional civil society in the design and implementation of this strategy, and the forthcoming mid-term strategy review, it is crucial to put inclusive and meaningful participation mechanisms for EU and Sahelian civil society in place.

7.4. Increase funding to strengthen civil society organisations. The EU (through Global Europe / NDICI) and its Member States must provide more coordinated, context-specific, and better funded support for civil society organisations in the Sahel, through multilateral and bilateral development cooperation. This should include flexible funds, emergency funds, and access to funds in restrictive civic space environments. Transparency of information, and transparency regarding civil society participation (particularly for women's rights organizations), must also be ensured in Team Europe Initiatives, the Global Gateway, and the forthcoming mid-term review and future implementation of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

- 1 <https://www.openownership.org/en/news/statement-on-court-of-justice-of-the-european-union-cjeu-judgement-on-public-beneficial-ownership-registers-in-the-eu/>
- 2 *The net-zero transition: What it would cost, what it could bring*. McKinsey Global Institute. January 2022.
- 3 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TX/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0950&qid=1647003740756>. European Commission. October 2021
- 4 Oxfam calls for the European Parliament and European countries to take concerted action on climate change. They must step up ambition by ensuring all EU climate rules contribute to carbon emission cuts of at least 65% by 2030, rather than the current 55% set out in the EU's *Fit for 55*. See *Fit for 55 Package: Not fit to tackle climate emergency says Oxfam*. Oxfam, July 2021
- 5 Three quarters of single-person households that are energy poor are women, and this figure rises to 82% among over 65s. *La pobreza energética en España, aproximación desde una perspectiva de ingresos*. IEB, Universidad de Barcelona. 2019.
- 6 A recommendation that responds to what was agreed on long-term climate finance and the loss and damage fund by States at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh.
- 7 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TX/?uri=CELEX%3A52022PC0071>
- 8 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/01/council-adopts-position-on-due-diligence-rules-for-large-companies/>
- 9 See examples: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/bimonthly-bulletin-refugees-and-migrants> (p. 5 and 16); and here <https://eu.rescue.org/report/mapping-potential-elements-independent-border-monitoring-mechanism-greece> for an analysis of the shortcomings of the mechanism in Greece and the resulting recommendations.
- 10 See examples: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/croatia/eu-strengthen-border-monitoring-system> and <https://borderviolence.eu/reports/joint-letter-on-croatias-border-monitoring-mechanism/> for an analysis of the shortcomings of the mechanism in Croatia and the resulting recommendations.
- 11 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation instrument (NDICI)
- 12 <https://westafrica.oxfam.org/en/latest/policy-paper/human-mobility-and-resilience-sahel-challenges-and-opportunities>
- 13 Migrations is reaching record numbers in LAC – 7.3 million migrants for 2022, according to the IOM – increasing pressure on countries with social protection systems that are already beyond capacity, such as Honduras or Guatemala. This is risking the lives of millions of people seeking to escape from insecure contexts.
- 14 https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_es#principios-de-la-global-gateway
- 15 <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/47156-desarrollo-transicion-propuesta-concepto-mediacion-cooperacion-renovada-america>
- 16 This has been reflected in the new law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity, as well as with the standing and extended presidency of the Sahel Alliance, and at the last NATO summit in Madrid where the government gave the region a prominent place in its new strategic framework.
- 17 These considerations are reflected in the EU's *Strategic Compass for Security and Defence*, adopted in 2022: *A strategic compass for security and defence / EEAS Website* (europa.eu).
- 18 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7723-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

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This document was **last updated in January 2023**. It was written by María Bardolet, Lourdes Benavides, Julie Bos, Alejandra Chávez, Andrea Costafreda, Cristina Fernández-Durán, Marc-Olivier Herman, Vittorio Infante, Sofía Marroquín, Beatriz Novales, Stephanie Pope, Chiara Putaturo, Cristina Rovira, Susana Ruíz, Hernán Sáenz Cortés, Estefanía Sánchez-Vasconcellos, Evelien van Roemburg and Gina Wharton. Oxfam also would like to thank Ignacio Iturralde for the copy-editing. The paper is part of a series written to inform public debate on development and humanitarian policy issues.

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