



Gobierno de
México

Ciencia y Tecnología

Secretaría de Ciencia, Humanidades, Tecnología e Innovación

Educación

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Relaciones Exteriores

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Universidades CELAC-UE Universities



III Academic and Knowledge Summit
of the European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean

CELAC - EU

“Consolidating a Common Space for Higher Education,
Science, Technology, and Innovation”



Educación





III Academic and Knowledge Summit
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"Consolidating a Common Space for Higher Education,
Science, Technology, and Innovation"

DECLARATION OF MEXICO CITY

Mexico City, July 11, 2025

Academic authorities, rectors, professors, educators, researchers, students, and officials from higher education institutions, research centers, and university networks across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe gathered in Mexico City on July 10 and 11, 2025, for the Third CELAC-EU Academic and Knowledge Summit. The summit was convened with a firm commitment to strengthening the Common Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

This meeting is part of the preparatory work towards the IV Summit of Heads of State and Government CELAC-EU, which will take place in the city of Santa Marta, on the Atlantic coast of Colombia, on November 9 and 10, 2025.

With the conviction that education is a fundamental human right, a public good that enables many others, and a cornerstone of the integral and equitable development of our societies, we reaffirm the bi-regional commitment to promote policies and actions in the educational and scientific fields that recognize the pluricultural and plurinational diversity of our peoples, strengthen our collective capacities and contribute to the construction of a more just future, leaving no one behind, leaving no one out.

Inspired by a shared vision rooted in our common history and strengthened by cultural ties and shared values, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening cooperation in order to confront the major challenges facing civilization. We firmly believe that, through the generation and appropriation of knowledge and the promotion of cooperation schemes based on open science and reciprocal solidarity, it is possible to move toward more cohesive, just, and equitable societies by addressing the needs of populations that, formally and informally, have strengthened their ties in spaces that foster cultural, academic, and scientific Exchange.

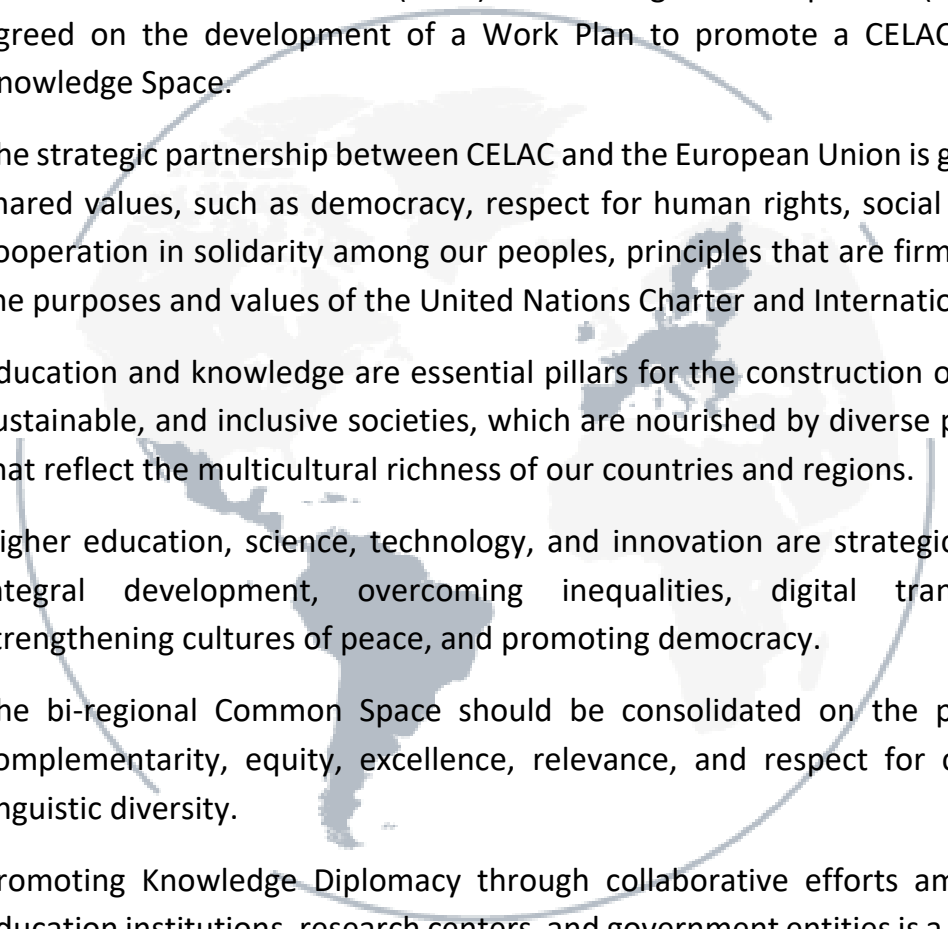
We are committed to consolidating a Shared Knowledge Space between CELAC and the European Union to bring our people closer together and enable them to confront social, environmental, technological, and economic challenges, as well as crises arising from current global conflicts and the increasing presence of economic and diplomatic policies that threaten peace, democracy, and the well-being of nations. In this context, we emphasize that states must be free from unilateral coercive measures that violate international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles of UNESCO when addressing their development needs and priorities.

Aware that social transformations requires the support of sustainable public policies and educational communities actively linked to peace-building, strengthening democracies, and territorial, economic, and environmental processes, we propose the design of mechanisms that favor the formulation of proposals, the articulation of common agendas and the implementation of collaborative programs that facilitate action and practical integration.

Convinced that this shared effort has as its strategic horizon the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future, placing knowledge at the center of human progress, collective well-being, and solidarity-based cooperation between our regions.

Considering:

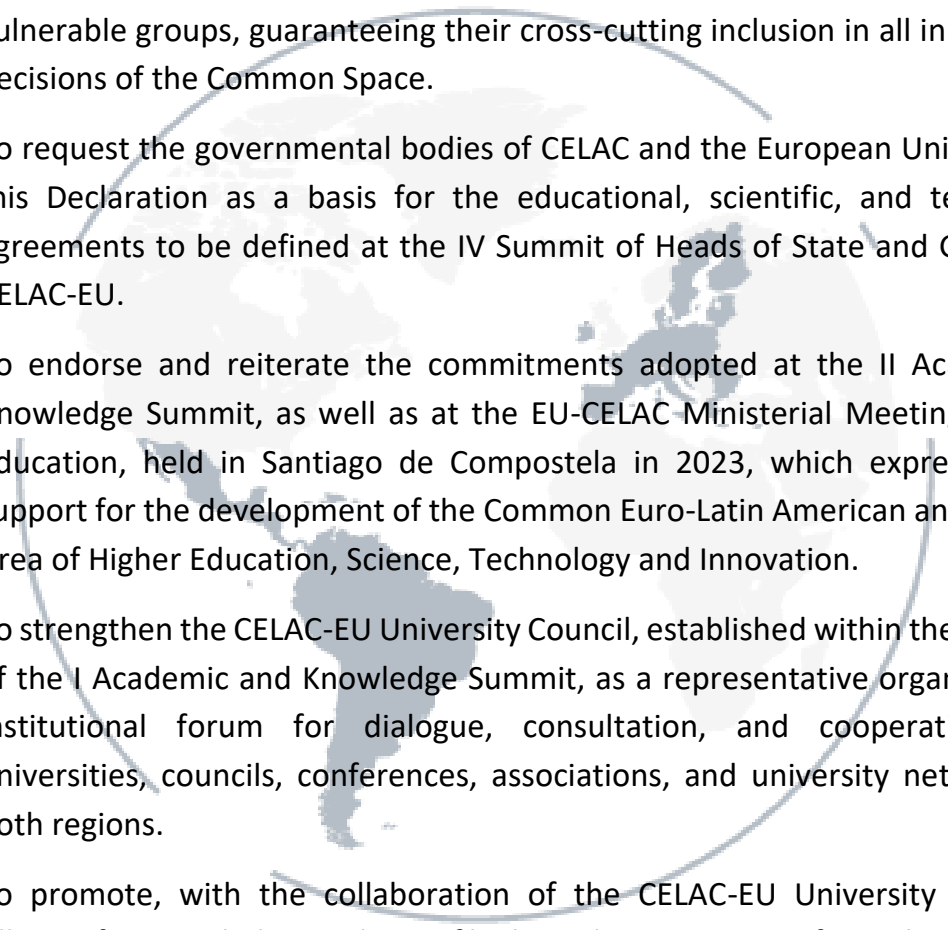
- The Regional Conferences on Higher Education held in Havana (1996), Cartagena de Indias (2008), and Cordoba (2018) consolidated the vision of higher education as a human right, a public good, and an essential instrument for sustainable development and social justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The World Conferences on Higher Education held in Paris (1998 and 2009) promoted global commitments aimed at guaranteeing equitable access, educational quality, social relevance of higher education, and international cooperation as pillars of shared progress.
- The CELAC-EU Action Plan adopted in Brussels in 2015 defined higher education, science, technology, and innovation as strategic priorities of the bi-regional partnership, laying the foundations for the articulation of joint programs.

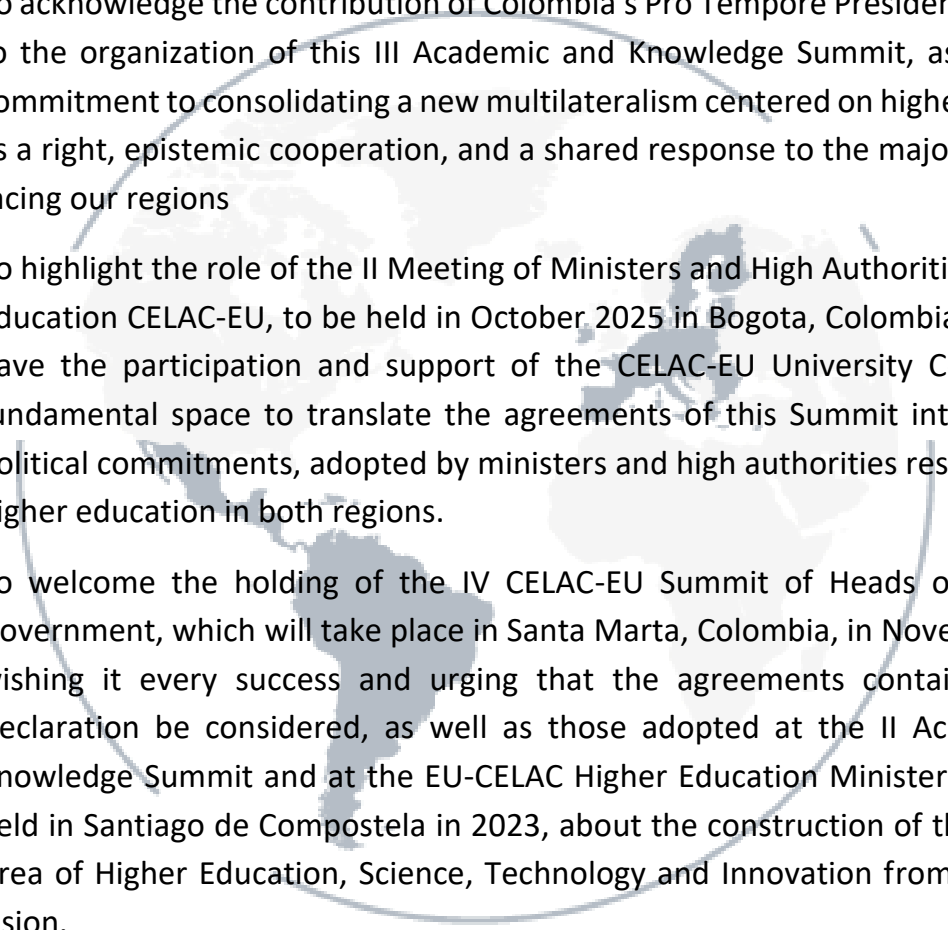
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- The Declarations of San Salvador (2017) and Santiago de Compostela (2023) constitute milestones in the construction of the Common Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, by highlighting digital transformation, sustainability, and inclusive cooperation as fundamental axes to advance towards fairer, more equitable and resilient societies.
 - This III Summit is part of the continuity of the commitments made in the declarations of San Salvador (2017) and Santiago de Compostela (2023), which agreed on the development of a Work Plan to promote a CELAC-EU Shared Knowledge Space.
 - The strategic partnership between CELAC and the European Union is grounded on shared values, such as democracy, respect for human rights, social justice, and cooperation in solidarity among our peoples, principles that are firmly rooted in the purposes and values of the United Nations Charter and International Law.
 - Education and knowledge are essential pillars for the construction of more just, sustainable, and inclusive societies, which are nourished by diverse perspectives that reflect the multicultural richness of our countries and regions.
 - Higher education, science, technology, and innovation are strategic drivers for integral development, overcoming inequalities, digital transformation, strengthening cultures of peace, and promoting democracy.
 - The bi-regional Common Space should be consolidated on the principles of complementarity, equity, excellence, relevance, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity.
 - Promoting Knowledge Diplomacy through collaborative efforts among higher education institutions, research centers, and government entities is a key priority. This initiative aims to strengthen cultures of peace and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.
 - Academic mobility and inter-institutional cooperation strengthen bi-regional dialogue, promote critical thinking, and stimulate social innovation.

- Universities, together with research and teaching centers, play a fundamental role in social transformation, the promotion of peace, and the construction of models oriented towards collective well-being.
- Gender equality, equity, inclusion, and social justice should constitute cross-cutting principles in all bi-regional cooperation initiatives.

WE AGREE:

1. To consolidate academic networks of higher education systems through strategic projects to promote bi-regional themes that collaboratively address major local and global challenges such as climate change, inequality, ethical artificial intelligence, physical and mental health, and energy and food sovereignty.
2. To encourage academic mobility of students, faculty, and research staff through shared programs, training stays, joint research projects, and internships, which strengthen academic and personal trajectories aligned with national and regional priorities.
3. To establish common frameworks for the mutual recognition of titles, degrees, and academic trajectories, based on clear criteria and aligned with national regulations, to facilitate educational and professional integration between the two regions and to promote global scientific citizenship.
4. To strengthen spaces for the exchange of experiences and analysis of public policies that favor mutual learning and the continuous improvement of higher education systems by linking their student, faculty, and worker communities.
5. To elaborate and consolidate methodological guidelines to serve as a guide for higher education institutions to develop self-evaluation models with contextualized and territorially relevant approaches to their mission areas of education, research, and community engagement, as well as institutional welfare and management.
6. To promote the formation of working groups that articulate projects and actions between academic communities, higher education institutions, research centers, productive sectors, social organizations, and local governments, oriented to the generation of open knowledge.

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7. To explore ways to strengthen academic cooperation around peace-building initiatives, including the promotion of intercultural dialogue, joint research on conflict resolution, and the promotion of knowledge diplomacy programs. These actions should contribute to consolidating higher education institutions as active spaces for the promotion of peace, justice, and reconciliation in our regions and globally.
 8. To strengthen the effective and meaningful participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and other historically vulnerable groups, guaranteeing their cross-cutting inclusion in all initiatives and decisions of the Common Space.
 9. To request the governmental bodies of CELAC and the European Union to adopt this Declaration as a basis for the educational, scientific, and technological agreements to be defined at the IV Summit of Heads of State and Government CELAC-EU.
 10. To endorse and reiterate the commitments adopted at the II Academic and Knowledge Summit, as well as at the EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education, held in Santiago de Compostela in 2023, which expressed strong support for the development of the Common Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.
 11. To strengthen the CELAC-EU University Council, established within the framework of the I Academic and Knowledge Summit, as a representative organization and institutional forum for dialogue, consultation, and cooperation among universities, councils, conferences, associations, and university networks from both regions.
 12. To promote, with the collaboration of the CELAC-EU University Council, an Alliance for Knowledge made up of higher education, scientific, technological, and innovation institutions, together with other social actors, public and private institutions, all of them united by their commitment to the construction of the Common Space. The purpose of this Alliance is to act as a promoter of higher education, science, technology, and innovation, to foster cooperation among the different actors and to favor better mutual knowledge, promoting the effective and efficient use of the instruments, optimizing participation in them and the available resources, and promoting their improvement.

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13. To elaborate the guidelines for the Action Plan 2025-2027, as a road map to guide academic, scientific, and technological collaboration during the next stage of the bi-regional process.
 14. To highlight the importance of consolidating mechanisms for state financing of public higher education systems to guarantee educational access with quality, permanence, and well-being, as well as for the dignity of labor and the promotion of relevant programs with social and territorial impact.
 15. To acknowledge the contribution of Colombia's Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC to the organization of this III Academic and Knowledge Summit, as well as its commitment to consolidating a new multilateralism centered on higher education as a right, epistemic cooperation, and a shared response to the major challenges facing our regions
 16. To highlight the role of the II Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Higher Education CELAC-EU, to be held in October 2025 in Bogota, Colombia, which will have the participation and support of the CELAC-EU University Council, as a fundamental space to translate the agreements of this Summit into high-level political commitments, adopted by ministers and high authorities responsible for higher education in both regions.
 17. To welcome the holding of the IV CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will take place in Santa Marta, Colombia, in November 2025, wishing it every success and urging that the agreements contained in this Declaration be considered, as well as those adopted at the II Academic and Knowledge Summit and at the EU-CELAC Higher Education Ministerial Meeting, held in Santiago de Compostela in 2023, about the construction of the Common Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation from an integral vision.
 18. To express our gratitude to the Government of Mexico, as well as to the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), together with the Ibero-American University Council and the CELAC-EU University Council, for their warm welcome and the excellent organization of this III CELAC-EU Academic and Knowledge Summit.

19. To welcome the generous offer of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (CRASP) as host of the IV CELAC-EU Academic and Knowledge Summit, to be held in 2027.

