



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN



V CONFERENCIA
MINISTERIAL DE
POLÍTICA EXTERIOR
FEMINISTA

5th Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy: Building peace and democracy

June 2–3, 2026, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Plaza del Marqués de Salamanca, 8 – Madrid)

Side Event

‘Harnessing the full potential of the care society as a new paradigm for sustainable development: A new dimension for diplomacy and cooperation with a gender perspective?’

June 3 , Auditorium (10:45-11:45)

Context

In recent years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have advanced, within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women, the concept of the “care society” as a new paradigm aimed at the sustainability of life, gender equality and sustainable development. This approach seeks to

transform the organisation of care by shifting from a sexual division of labour based on unequal distribution between women and men towards more equitable systems that recognise care as a public good, social responsibility and a right. It also aims to guarantee the right to care, be cared for and self-care, as well as conditions of decent work for those engaged in care-related labour, both paid and unpaid. Likewise, it recognises the value and impact of care on the economic sustainability of societies, social cohesion and the preservation of the environment.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, these commitments have been reaffirmed through the Regional Gender Agenda and the “Tlatelolco Commitment”, which promotes a decade of action for 2035 to accelerate equality and the construction of care societies. At the same time, the European Union has incorporated care as a structural dimension of its “Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030”, promoting accessible, high-quality services, a more

equitable distribution of care responsibilities, and greater coherence between its internal and external policies. In this context, the 4th CELAC–European Union Summit (Santa Marta, 2025) launched the EU–LAC Bi-regional Care Pact, conceived as a voluntary platform for bi-regional cooperation to strengthen the exchange of policies, comparative analyses and recommendations on care systems and decent work.

Other regions, such as ASEAN, the African Union and the Arab region, have also begun developing care-related frameworks and policies, recognising care as a strategic component for social resilience, equality and regional protection and security. However, the potential of the care society as a bridge towards climate action and socio-environmental cohesion remains less developed in the international sphere.

Despite these conceptual and normative advances, the potential of the care society as a framework for inclusive peacebuilding and international cooperation remains insufficiently explored. The International Conference on Financing for Development in Madrid offers a strategic opportunity to explore how this approach can enrich international agendas on peace, democracy and sustainable development.

Session Objectives

- To foster a high-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue on the intersections between the care society, feminist diplomacy and international cooperation.
- To explore the potential of the care society as an innovative dimension of foreign policy and international cooperation.
- To identify opportunities for regional and interregional coordination between government actors, international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.
- To develop strategic recommendations for integrating the care approach into external action and strengthening coherence between domestic and foreign policies.

Panel

High-level segment (25 minutes)

Aude Maio-Coliche, Ambassador for Equality at the European External Action Service (EU).

Noelia Martínez Franchi, Special Representative for Gender Equality, Uruguay.

Miriam Ciscar Blat, Deputy Director of Feminist Cooperation, Human Development and Governance at the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Spain.

Saran Kana Jones, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia. (TBC)

Moderator: **Anna Barrera**, Director of Programmes, EU-LAC Foundation

Panel on reflections and multi-sectoral perspectives (25 minutes)

Ana Güezmes García, Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Cecilia Güemes Gherardi, Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)

Olga Montúfar, Network of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Women with Disabilities (REMIAD)

Ana Moreno, Technical Secretary of the Global Care Alliance (GAC).

Edith Espínola, Spokesperson for the Active Domestic Service Organisation (SEDOAC)

Paz Arancibia, Regional Senior Specialist for Gender and Non-Discrimination for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Lucila García Méndez, CEO of ClosingGap.

Moderator: **Odilia Abreu**, Consultant for the EU-LAC Women's International Network

Closing: **Adriana Quiñones**, Head of Human Rights and Development at UN Women