



## CÁCERES DECLARATION

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WE, Participants in the European Forum "The Role of Women in Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment" held in Cáceres, Extremadura, Spain from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010, under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union,

RECALLING the founding principles of the European Union: integration, equality and non-discrimination as gathered in the Treaty of Rome and revitalised in the Treaty of Lisbon,

BEARING IN MIND that the complete sustainable development of the rural environment cannot be indifferent to these principles and inexorably depends on territorial cohesion and the equity of its inhabitants,

AWARE that elements and situations of inequality persist within the Union which contradict these principles, and

CONSIDERING that conditions and circumstances converge today that allow for the creation of an atmosphere where such inequalities may be definitively overcome,

WE ADOPT AND DISSEMINATE THE FOLLOWING

### CÁCERES DECLARATION

For the European Union of today and of the foreseeable future, the complete and sustainable development of the rural environment constitutes a guarantee of viability, identity, integration and capacity to act in a relevant manner on the international stage.

This essential development of the rural environment can only be viable within a dynamic and alive territory, inhabited by an advanced society. Today, building territorial cohesion, adaptable and participatory governance and completely equal rights, opportunities and services for all citizens is not unconnected to the processes of sustainable rural development.

The presence and activity of women in the rural environment has proven to prevent depopulation and ensure the maintenance of such processes.



Achieving full equity between women and men, integrating the gender perspective in all policies and applying their institutional, legal and technical consequences through community instruments is a priority objective that is coherent with the political context that came out of the Treaty of Lisbon and is entirely possible within the planning frameworks that must be applied.

Fully overcoming the real inequalities that persist between men and women in the Member States of the Union requires the application of specific measures favouring equality, the technical development and legal and administrative reflection of which - far from opposing the foundational spirit of the Union - revalidate and update its permanent commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

The renewed capacity of these actions via the financial support mechanisms that accompany rural development and territorial policies constitute the ideal instruments for guaranteeing, by way of gender equity, the population dynamic that is so essential to a cohesive territory guided by diversity-sensitive governance models.

Encouraged by the firm conviction of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the Union, we call upon the public powers to take notice of this Declaration and materialize the institutional, legal and technical innovations that enable it to be more wholly expressed in a society of our times.

In Cáceres, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010