

## On 15 February 2024, the Basque Parliament approved the Cooperation and Solidarity Act with broad political and social support.

Through this law, Basque society and institutions have been given a new framework with which to act decisively and in a coordinated manner to promote human development, global justice, democracy, human rights and world peace.



Humanity is facing numerous complex global challenges –poverty, inequality, war and the climate crisis, to name but a few–. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that these problems have a more marked impact on the populations that live in the territories of the South, and especially on girls and women.

The Basque Country has a long and well-known history of solidarity. Hence, this Act calls on Basque society as a whole, social organisations, the media, research centres and universities and all Basque Government bodies to make a commitment to promote human development and global justice.

# COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY ACT



LANKIDETZARAKO ETA  
ELKARTASUNERAKO  
EUSKAL AGENTZIA

BASQUE AGENCY  
FOR COOPERATION  
AND SOLIDARITY



EUSKO JAURLARITZA  
GOBIERNO VASCO

# THE ACT'S ARTICLES

This Act consists of five chapters, nineteen articles, one additional provision, three transitional provisions, one repealing provision and three final provisions. Its main new features are as follows:

- It calls for the Basque public sector as a whole and all other actors to support the solidarity policy. For this purpose, its scope has been broadened to include all three levels of government in the Basque Country –within the framework of their respective powers and according to the degree of autonomy and organisational structure of each one of them–.



- It highlights the experience, commitment and know-how of Basque cooperation and solidarity actors, especially development NGOs. It also seeks to broaden alliances between people, institutions and entities –social and private– as they can contribute according to their specific expertise and differentiated responsibility.
- It establishes a new institutional architecture to organise Basque public cooperation. For this purpose, it defines the functions and responsibilities of the Basque public sector, inter alia, with regard to inter-institutional collaboration, policy coherence for sustainable development and accountability. Furthermore, it establishes two advisory and coordinating bodies for Basque cooperation: the Basque Council for Cooperation and Solidarity and the Inter-institutional Committee for Cooperation and Solidarity.
- It aims to strengthen the role of public policy on cooperation and solidarity and to improve its effectiveness, among other things, through the drafting of a Report on the State of Basque Cooperation and Solidarity. Every five years, this Report will assess the degree of fulfilment of the commitments made in this Act.
- It establishes new planning mechanisms and forms of Basque cooperative action, tailoring the instruments of public cooperation to the circumstances of the countries and populations with which we are working. In order to fulfil the objectives, it is necessary to comply with international agreements and standards and to implement innovative measures. These must be effective and promote lasting transformations at a local level, without losing sight of the global dimension.

- It strengthens the resources and capabilities through which Basque cooperation policies will be implemented. For this purpose, it reaffirms the 0.7% commitment and takes into account people involved in cooperation and solidarity actions –professional aid workers, trainees, volunteers and Basque public sector staff–.
- It establishes provisions to improve knowledge management and learning, as well as communication. The transformations that we are about to undertake require a deep understanding of the changing circumstances, preserving the knowledge of the peoples, seeking innovative and lasting solutions and, above all, the solidarity-based commitment and engagement of society as a whole.

## PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

The consensus achieved with this Act reflects the process that was followed to prepare it, which began in 2021. A range of different actors were encouraged to take part in it, such as state government bodies from the Basque Country and Spain, the Basque Development NGO Platform, academia, technology centres, feminist organisations, the LGBTBI+ community, migrants' associations, United Nations agencies and education stakeholders, among others.

See the full Act:

