

Activity report for the first half of 2022

Unidas Women's Network between Germany, Latin America and the Caribbean

Background information

The Unidas Women's Network was founded on 28 May 2019 with the aim of bringing together members and organisations that share the common goal of creating a society that provides equal opportunities and gender equality for all. More than 250 members from Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany and nine partner organisations have since joined the network.

Unidas is a central component of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock assumed the patronage of Unidas in March 2022.

An advisory board composed of members with equal representation from Germany, Latin America and the Caribbean advises the Unidas Network on strategic issues and selects the winner of the annual Unidas Prize for Women's Rights and Democracy.

The aim of Unidas is to strengthen the equal participation and rights of women in politics, media, society, business and science and to foster exchange in the following priority areas in particular:

- Women's rights and democracy
- Women and Peacekeeping (Women, Peace and Security Agenda)
- Strategies to prevent violence against women and femicide
- Women's participation in the economy

Activities

January to June 2022

N.B.: Reports on the individual activities can be retrieved from the [Unidas platform](#) by clicking on the links in the following text. If you are not yet registered, you can register [here](#).

At the request of the members, a regular virtual exchange ('[Espacio Abierto](#)') has been taking place in the network since February 2021. In the first half of 2022, the topics discussed were current challenges in curbing violence against women and restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights in Guatemala ([February](#)) and the anti-gender movement in Europe ([May](#)).

In February 2022, the network offered its members an [online course](#) on the safe use of digital media in collaboration with the NGO Kiron Open Higher Education, which helps raise awareness about threats and basic safety measures that can be taken to protect personal data on the Internet. The course content included protecting accounts and data,

surfing and communicating safely, and dealing with misinformation, hate speech and online harassment. It also provided a digital self-defence toolkit.

A two-day event had already taken place with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa) in September 2021 on the importance of [Resolution 1325 for Latin America](#) and the experiences of the Unidas Women's Network. The joint work on **Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda** for Latin America and the Caribbean continued from March to May 2022 in a virtual workshop series held over several weeks in which members of the network shared experiences, strategies and communication related to implementing the agenda in their specific country contexts.

Unidas Week 2022 was held as a **supra-regional networking event** in Berlin from 22 to 25 March. After the event was officially opened by German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Chile's Foreign Minister Antonia Urrejola, the (first) [Unidas Prize for Women's Rights and Democracy](#) was awarded to the #NiUnaMenos movement from Argentina. The cooperation among the members was deepened with a number of dialogue events covering topics such as **preventing gender-specific violence through access to law, women in business, reproductive rights** and implementation of **Resolution 1325 in Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany**. It was an opportunity to further advance Unidas' aim to strengthen women's rights, visibility and participation together with the network's members.



Representatives of #NiUnaMenos being awarded the Unidas Prize for Women's Rights and Democracy 2021 | Copyright: photothek.net/Thomas Trutschel.

The members of the Unidas advisory board discussed the activities and strategic orientation of Unidas at the **advisory board meeting** of 25 March. One goal for 2022 is to

continue strengthening the membership base, especially in the Caribbean, and to step up dialogue with the German members.

The next project support phase under the **zivik Funding Programme of the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)** started in March 2022 and will run until December 2022. Projects supported this year revolve around promoting active participation of women and inclusion of gender-specific content in the new constitution of **Chile**, developing a network on the topics of security, mediation and peace building between **Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico**, urban conflicts over access to land and decent housing in **Brazil**, the dynamics of violence against human rights and environmental activists in **Brazilian Amazonia**, and strengthening civil rights in **Honduras**.

The first phase of a **project for promoting women in the cultural and creative industries**, which was implemented in collaboration with the Goethe Institutes in Salvador da Bahia and Santiago de Chile, included workshops on internationalisation and women's vocational capacity development in the music industry, fine arts and gaming. The first phase was completed with a networking meeting of all participants in Santiago de Chile in March 2022. More women from the creative industries can benefit from the second project phase, which runs until the end of the year.

In April, the office of the ombudswoman in Costa Rica held a **webinar on human trafficking and slavery of women** in the 21st century in collaboration with the Mexican organisation Alas Abiertas with support from Unidas.

That same month, Colombian Unidas member Juliana Hernández de la Torre contributed a **discussion paper to the series of online seminars entitled: How female is diplomacy?**, which is part of the international diplomat training offered by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Unidas will make various contributions to the social **media campaign Build an equal tomorrow** run by deutschland.de from June and July onwards. Under Germany's G7 presidency, it will introduce committed individuals from business, society and politics who are actively promoting climate action, food security and gender equality within and outside Germany.

In order to further deepen thematic cooperation within the network, **new** working groups on thematic clusters were established after Unidas Week. At the beginning of June, the working groups on Strengthening and Participation of Indigenous Women, Feminist Foreign Policy and Journalism/women in the Media met for the first time for a virtual exchange and defined next steps and specific goals for further cooperation.

In addition to expanding content, the Women's Network welcomed **new members from Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany** this year and prepared onboarding documents for faster integration. Furthermore, two members offered to act as '**nodal points**' for **Ecuador and Germany**. Nodal points now exist in ten countries. As coordinators and spokespersons of the national Unidas groups, nodal points engage in monthly dialogue with the coordinator of the network on current issues and ideas for Unidas.

Thanks to the commitment shown by the nodal points, several countries have established what are referred to as **country calls** between the members, for example in [Guatemala](#) in January.

German embassies in several countries are also contributing very actively to the work of the network. **(Hybrid) face-to-face meetings**, organised and directed by embassy staff, were held in [Ecuador](#) and [Mexico](#) in April.

Outlook on the second half of 2022

Unidas will continue to foster dialogue between members in Latin America, the Caribbean and Germany on women's rights and address current dynamics of German and multilateral foreign policy stakeholders.

In particular, it will cover issues raised by the members, as they are of great relevance in their respective regional or national settings. In the context of the economic impact of the current crisis, their interest in addressing challenges to women's economic participation and the financing of organisations that advocate for women's rights has also grown noticeably.

In addition to **network meetings** and other **exchange formats**, Unidas will continue to **offer capacity development measures** and enable **support for small projects** initiated by members.

One priority will be to **further advance** dialogue within the working groups on thematic clusters that were formed in June and to present initial results before the end of this year.

In order to support the communication, visibility and campaign work of the members and their organisations, **several weeks of communication training is to be offered to Unidas members** from September to November. In October 2022, Unidas will hold a joint **event celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child** together with the organisation Plan International.

Finally, the **Unidas Prize for Women's Rights and Democracy 2022** is to be awarded later in the year.

The next **Unidas advisory board meeting is planned towards the end of the third quarter**.

Further events and partnerships are in preparation.

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