



Regional Conference
on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN?



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



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Ministerio de
la Mujer y la
Equidad de
Género

Gobierno de Chile



What is the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is the region's foremost intergovernmental forum on women's rights and gender equality. Its sessions are organized by ECLAC, as the Secretariat of the Regional Conference, with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It is convened on a regular basis, at least every three years, to analyse the status of women's autonomy and rights at the regional and subregional levels, present recommendations regarding public policies on gender equality, and undertake periodic assessments of the activities carried out in fulfilment of regional and international agreements on the subject.

The first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, was convened by the secretariat of ECLAC, as decided at the seventeenth session of the Commission, two years after the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico, 1975) and in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Thus far, the member States of ECLAC have held 14 sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at which they have examined the progress and challenges in relation to women's autonomy and equality and have agreed upon an ambitious, deep-reaching and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda.

The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 was adopted by the governments at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference (2016). It represents a tool for overcoming the structural challenges to gender equality and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of gender and women's autonomy and rights in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

By virtue of the Santiago Commitment, adopted at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020), the governments reaffirmed the commitments assumed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after its adoption and, looking to the future, agreed upon new commitments to respond in a forward-looking and innovative manner to the emerging challenges facing women in changing economic, demographic, climatic and technological scenarios. The governments also agreed to implement gender-sensitive countercyclical policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in key sectors, including the care economy (Santiago Commitment, para. 24).

Who convenes the sessions of the Regional Conference?

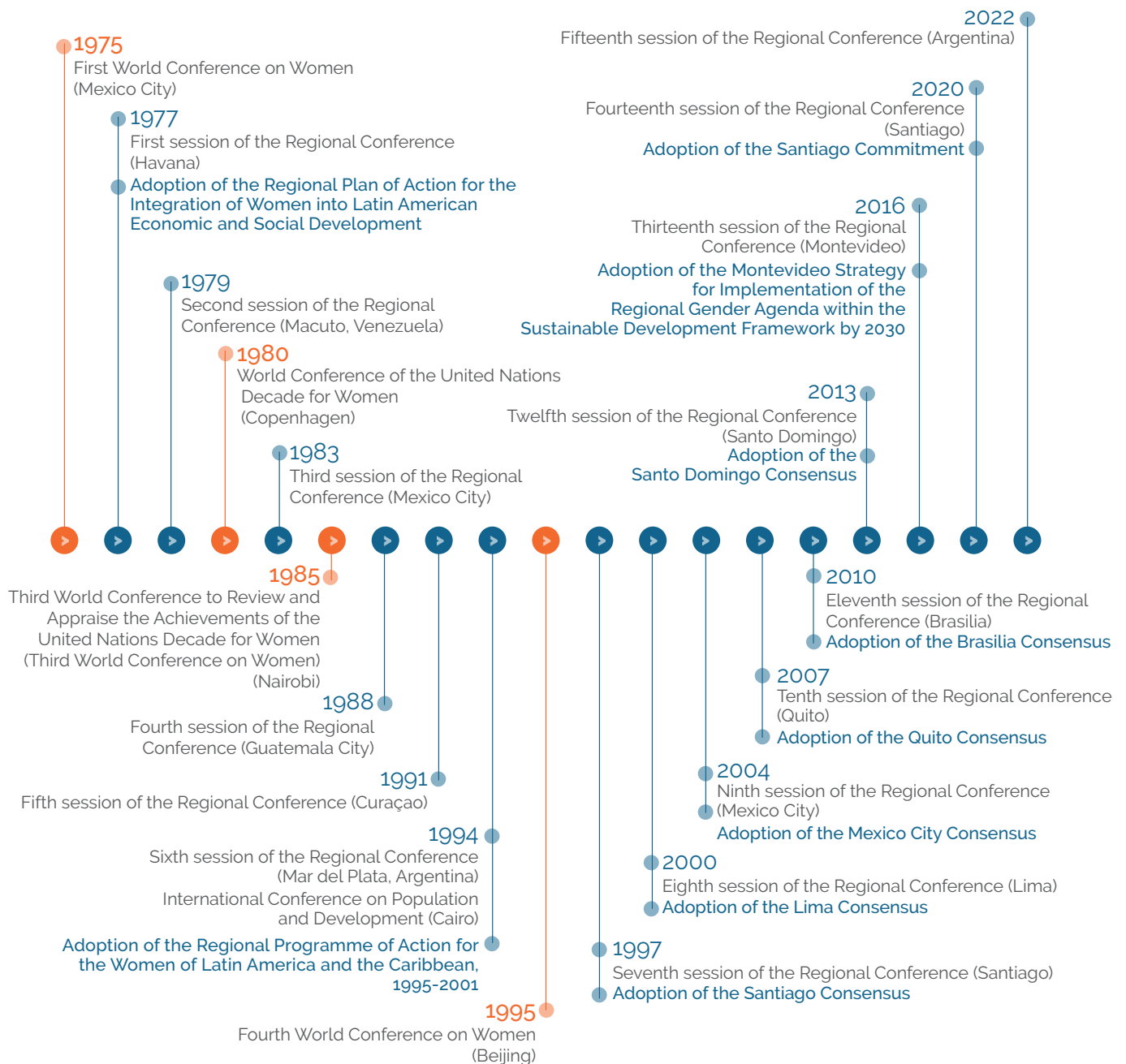
ECLAC has been given the mandate to convene the member States and associate members to sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission, no later than six weeks prior to each session of the Regional Conference, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC sends out invitations to the member countries and associate members of the Commission to participate in the deliberations. Other States Members of the United Nations and representatives of other bodies and programmes forming part of the United Nations system are invited to attend as observers, as are representatives of intergovernmental organizations and of non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and special guests.

Where are the sessions held?

The fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean will be hosted by Argentina and will be held in 2022, as provided in paragraph 48 of the Santiago Commitment.

Global milestones and landmarks of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean



What is the theme of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?

The governments represented at the sixty-first meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in virtual format on 29 and 30 September 2021, will discuss the preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference and decide on the themes for discussion on that occasion.

Who attends the sessions?

The sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean are attended by representatives of the member States and associate members of the Commission. Representatives of States enjoying consultative status¹ attend as observers.

In addition, the sessions are attended by observers from United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and other autonomous organizations, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Who are the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference?

The member States of the Commission elect Presiding Officers at the beginning of each session of the Regional Conference. The Presiding Officers usually include a Chair (this office is customarily held by the host country) and several Vice-Chairs. The member States elect the Presiding Officers for each session of the Conference based on the principles of rotation of duties and of adequate representation of the various subregions.

The Presiding Officers of the Conference serve as a liaison between the governments and the secretariat of ECLAC and meet between sessions of the Regional Conference in order to maintain a permanent mechanism for action. Accordingly, there have been 60 meetings of the Presiding Officers since 1978.

¹ Members of the United Nations which do not belong to the Commission and States which are not members of the United Nations hold consultative status.

Which countries serve as Presiding Officers?

The Presiding Officers who will serve until the next session of the Conference were elected at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in January 2020. They are as follows:

Chair	Chile
Vice-Chairs	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
	Brazil
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador
	El Salvador
	Grenada
	Haiti
	Jamaica
	Mexico
	Nicaragua
	Panama
	Paraguay
	Peru
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Suriname
	Uruguay

At the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Argentina in 2022, the member States will have the opportunity to nominate and elect the new Presiding Officers.

Who prepares the documents?

The position paper for the Conference is prepared by the secretariat of ECLAC. Preliminary versions of the document are submitted to the member countries for their consideration at subregional preparatory meetings. The inputs from these meetings are included in the final version of the document, which serves as a basis for the deliberations at the session of the Conference.

The secretariat also prepares supporting documentation, either alone or in collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations system or academic institutions from the region.

Activities of non-governmental organizations related to the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference

Non-governmental organizations may participate in the sessions of the Regional Conference as follows:

- As part of their national delegations, as arranged at the country level and approved by the respective Government.
- As organizations holding consultative status with the United Nations, in accordance with the rules of the Economic and Social Council.
- As observers, in the case of regional or subregional networks that are recognized for their work in follow-up of the implementation of implementing the Regional Gender Agenda.

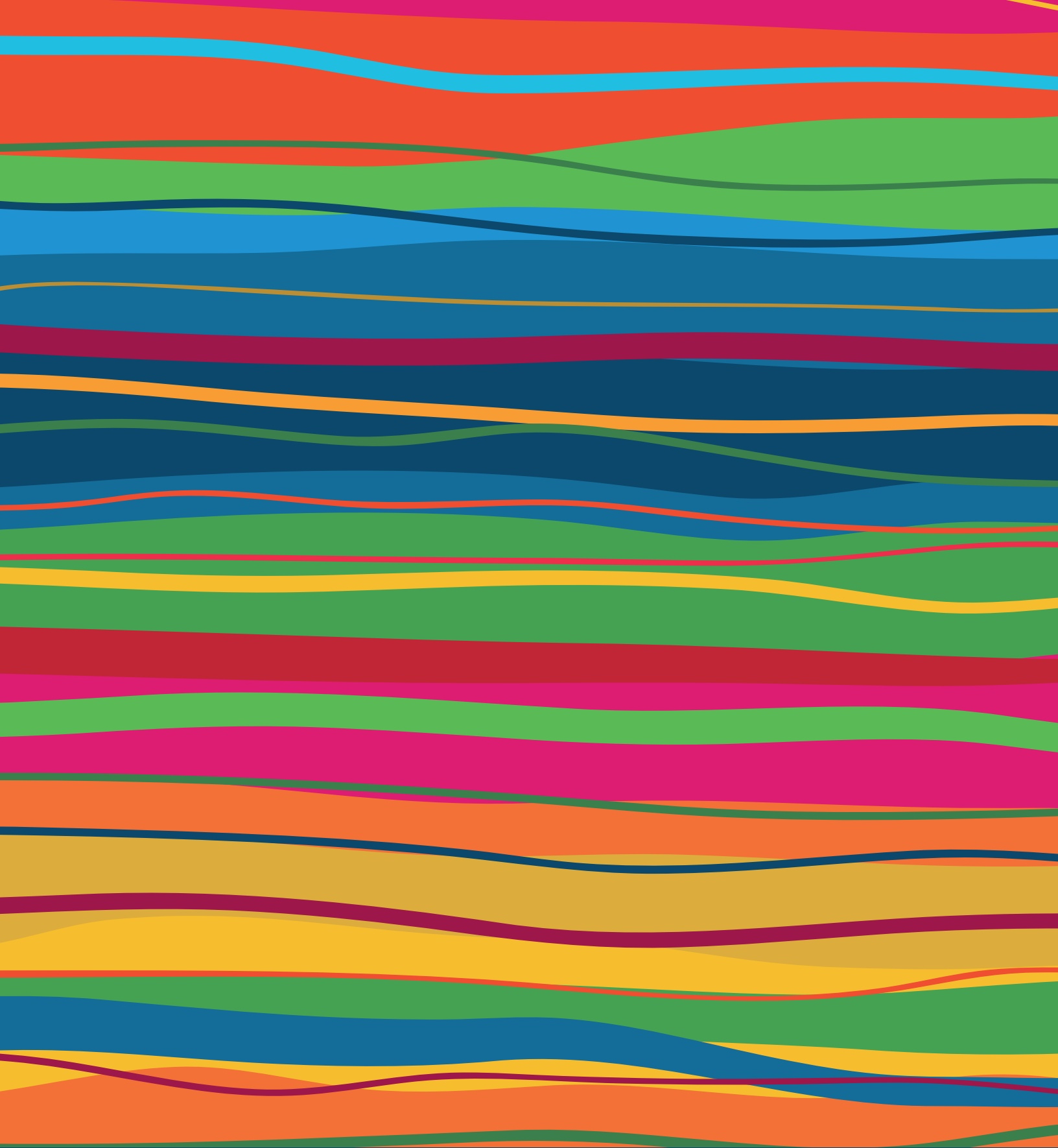
For more information about the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean see [online]

<https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-women-latin-america-and-caribbean>

<https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs>

<https://oig.cepal.org/en>

<https://biblioguias.cepal.org/RegionalGenderAgenda>



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
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