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Fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers  
of the Regional Conference on Women  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 25-26 May 2017

## AGREEMENTS

*At their fifty-fifth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:*

1. *Ensure* the exercise of women's rights and their autonomy in the current context marked by the economic slowdown, the effects of climate change, the fragility of some democracies and the resurgence of conservative and fundamentalist positions that amount to a threat of possible backsliding;
2. *Strengthen* gender mainstreaming strategies by means of partnership building, coordination and negotiation to ensure that gender equality policies are policies of State;
3. *Step up* efforts to strengthen the capacities of machineries for the advancement of women as focal points for and coordinators with different governmental bodies, with a view to designing equality policies and mainstreaming gender in planning and budgeting at the national, subnational and local levels;
4. *Commend* the efforts made by the countries of the region to apply the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 through its implementation pillars and congratulate those that, at this meeting, have voluntarily reported on their progress in the implementation and adaptation of the Strategy to their national situation;
5. *Increase* the dissemination of measures set forth in the Montevideo Strategy among the various State bodies to ensure their full engagement in and commitment to its implementation pillars;
6. *Follow up* on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy at all levels and in all sectors of public policy in accordance with national priorities, particularly gender equality and sustainable development plans, and ensure that they have funding;
7. *Reaffirm* the commitment to mainstream the gender perspective and women's autonomy and rights, in line with the Regional Gender Agenda and the Montevideo Strategy, into all the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, indicators and means of implementation, in order to take advantage of this window of opportunity for institutional strengthening of machineries for the advancement of women;

8. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to provide technical support for progress in the implementation of the measures set forth in the Montevideo Strategy identified as priorities by each country, and to continue developing indicators for analysing and designing strategies to resolve the structural bottlenecks of gender inequality; to foster knowledge transfer and experience-sharing between countries; and to carry out South-South cooperation activities for the application of the Montevideo Strategy;

9. *Strengthen* the coordinated work between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission, in particular the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with a view to comprehensively tackling the various expressions of gender inequality and coordinating social, economic and population policies;

10. *Thank* the secretariat for its report on the activities carried out since the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular with regard to knowledge management, technical assistance for countries and efforts to disseminate and implement the Montevideo Strategy, and urge it to continue with this line of work in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women;

11. *Welcome* the study by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean entitled *Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean: road maps for development*,<sup>1</sup> which was prepared by the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, and constitutes an input for reflection by machineries for the advancement of women, and continue to support the process of updating the Observatory;

12. *Reiterate* their commitment to designing and implementing gender plans and policies that are coordinated with national sustainable development strategies and have targets, indicators and adequate budgets;

13. *Urge* United Nations bodies and international cooperation agencies to contribute to the sustainability of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in keeping with agreement 3 of the Quito Consensus of 2007;

14. *Thank* the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing, with the support of the Government of Norway, the panel discussion on vocational education and training and young women's participation in the labour force, and for the studies presented;

15. *Reaffirm* the importance of taking active steps to eliminate gender bias in education, curricula and vocational education and training systems and of promoting public-private intersectoral dialogues (among the State, trade unions, social organizations and businesses) to promote young women's incorporation into the labour force in good-quality jobs in fields from which they are currently excluded;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/PUB.2017/1-P.

16. *Welcome the Report by the secretariat on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements*<sup>2</sup> and the incorporation of the Government of El Salvador into the respective working group, and include women's and feminist organizations and movements in the working group;

17. *Also welcome* the road map proposed by the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, which includes the preparation of a preliminary document by the Government of Mexico, the organization of online meetings between the countries of the working group and women's and feminist organizations, and its inclusion on the agenda for the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers;

18. *Invite* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to review its proposal in the light of the preliminary document on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements to be prepared by the Government of Mexico, and extend that invitation to other international organizations with experience of fund management;

19. *Recognize* the multiple manifestations of gender violence and their serious consequences for women and society, and agree to redouble efforts to adjust public policy interventions to prevent, deal with and combat this violence effectively;

20. *Urge* national statistical offices to include in their next census round the broader concept of work agreed upon at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the International Labour Organization (2013), in order to account for both employment and unpaid household work;

21. *Welcome* the offer by the Government of Cuba to host the fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at which the fortieth anniversary of the Regional Conference will be celebrated, in Havana in the second half of 2017.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/MDM.55/3.