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Meeting of the  
**Presiding Officers  
of the Regional  
Conference on Women**  
in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Santiago, 25-26 May 2017



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# Agenda item 5

Presentation of the study by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean: road maps for development*



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**Gender Equality Observatory**  
for Latin America and the Caribbean

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# Gender equality plans in Latin America and the Caribbean

## Road maps for development

This study aims to contribute to linking gender equality plans with the Regional Gender Agenda, development plans and sustainable development plans in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Gender equality plans are road maps for States towards the achievement of gender equality and the guarantee of women's rights.

The study links up design, contents and strategic pillars, as well as legislation and national development plans.

Its analysis of gender equality plans may serve machineries for the advancement of women (MAWs) in their efforts to strengthen coordination with the different sectors on the preparation of future gender planning tools.

# By analysing the formulation of gender plans we can identify:

## The conceptual approaches involved

Approach based on women's human rights

- Gender equality
- Women's autonomy

## Criteria for gender mainstreaming and public management innovation

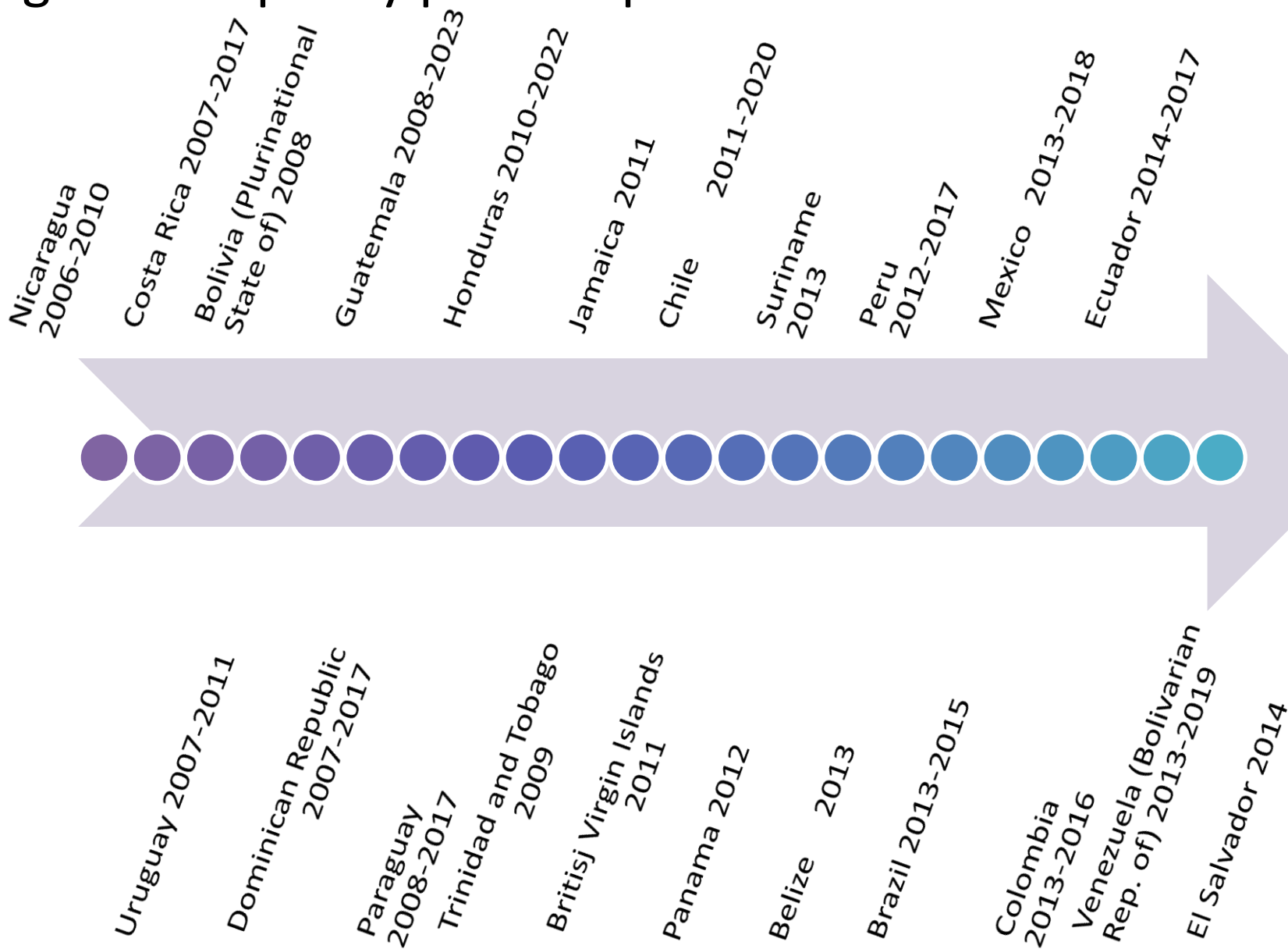
- Intersectoral coordination
- Citizen participation
- Measurement, knowledge-building and generation of evidence.

## Responsibilities allocated for different State actors

- Leadership by MAWs
- Road map towards gender equality for the State as a whole
- Or it can be a planning instrument for gender equality policy review by MAWs



# 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries have gender equality plans in place



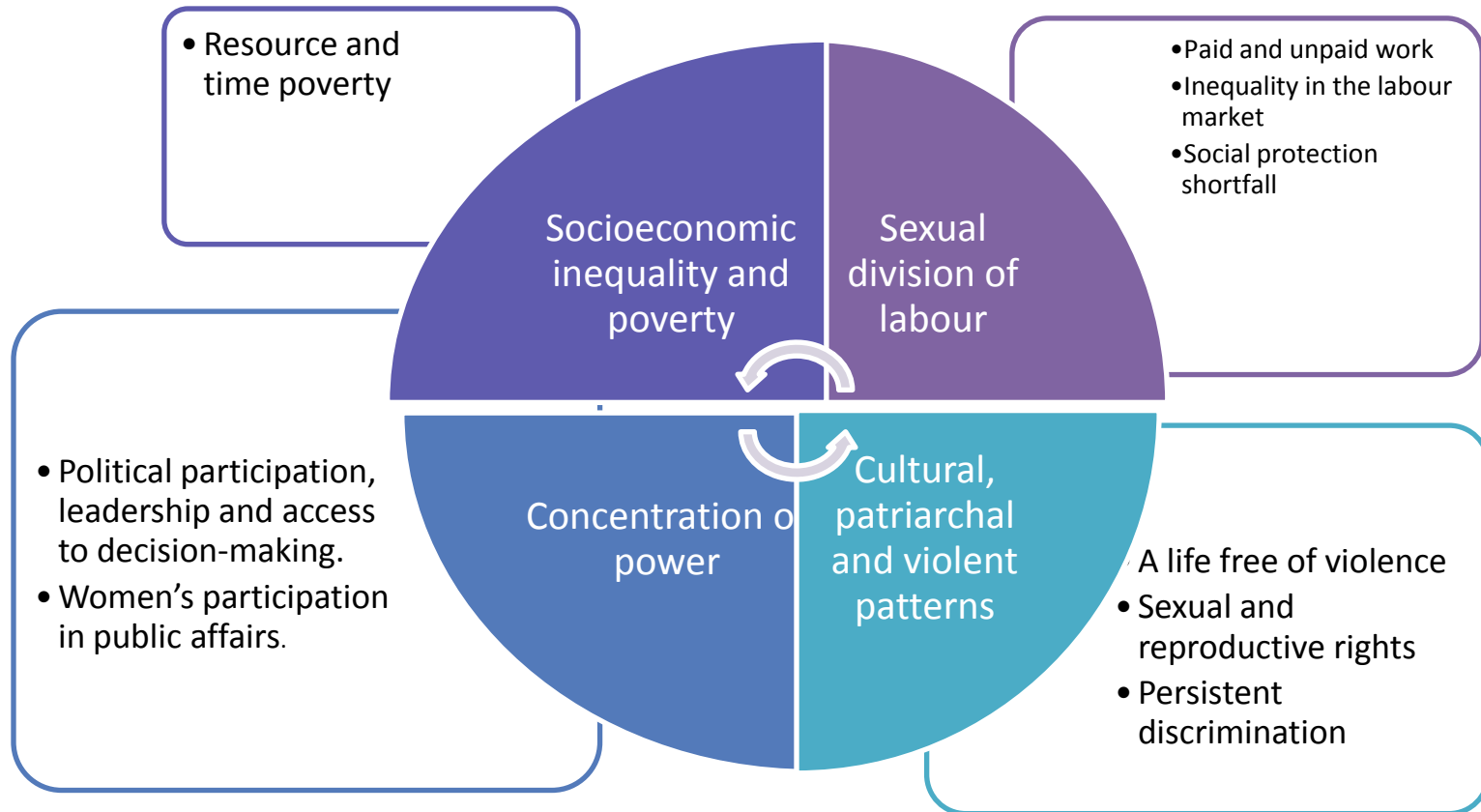
# Plans show how States project their efforts to resolve bottlenecks in overcoming gender discrimination and achieving women's autonomy

- Violence against women, maternal mortality and adolescent maternity, in the sphere of physical autonomy; political participation still below parity in the sphere of decision-making autonomy; and women's integration into employment under suitable conditions, and control of monetary and time resources on an equal footing with men in the sphere of economic autonomy.

Institutionalizing the time frame for the work of MAWs, as the agencies steering gender equality and broadening their action towards other institutions, challenges the construction and implementation of public policies for the various State actors.



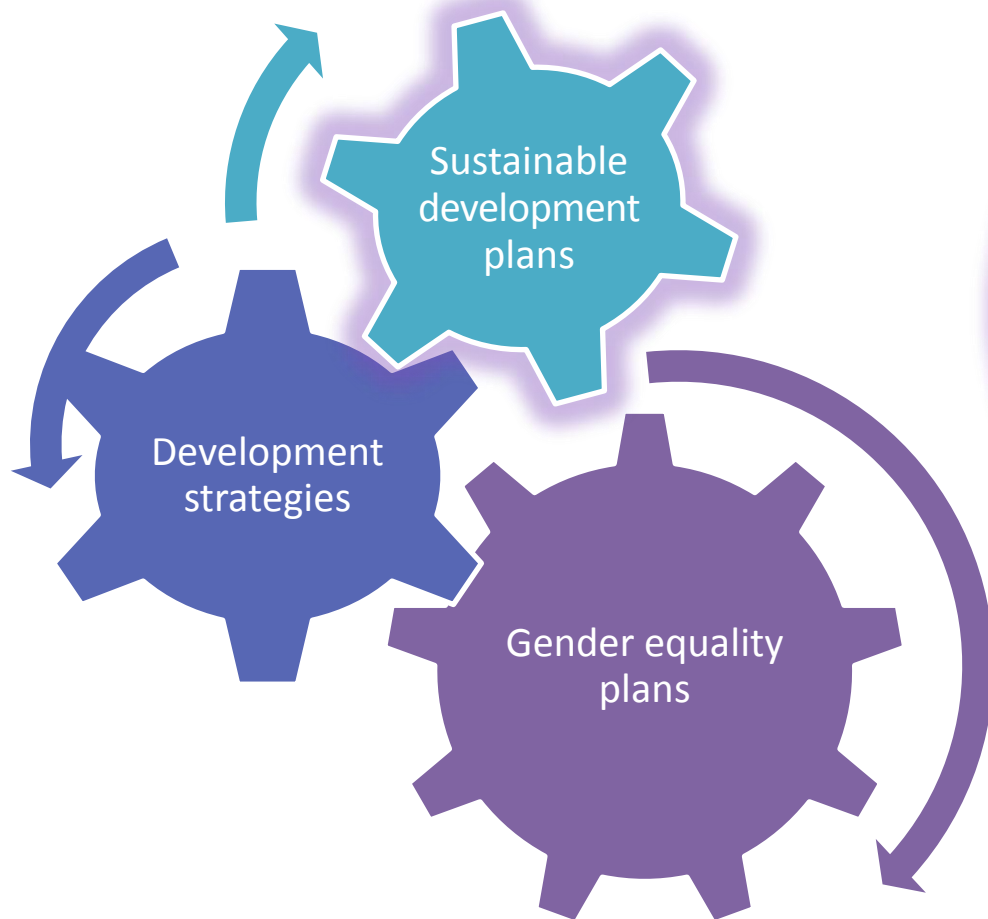
# Plans show how States project their efforts to resolve bottlenecks of gender inequality, which limit women's autonomy and curtail their rights



Institutionalization of gender equality machineries and broadening of institutional action and gender equality policies across different State bodies.



Progress has been made on the link with development planning tools, but more is needed



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Latin American countries and Haiti have embedded gender-related goals or strategies in their national development plans

# The normative framework ensures continuity and sustainability in most of the countries

Executive decree (Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay)

Legislative mandates for MAWs, (Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru)

Constitutional mandate (Ecuador)

Mandate in national development plan (Colombia)

Policy management review tool (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Chile)



# Getting the gender equality agenda established in the public agenda is difficult

In 1 of every 2 plans analysed, no institution is identified as responsible for ensuring that strategies are fulfilled.

The emphasis is on social policies (education, work, health), but strategies are weak in relation to ministries of finance, foreign affairs, public works, and so forth.

The almost exclusive assignation to MAWs of plan execution and follow-up overburdens them and constrains and complicates their actions and resources.



# The prevailing technical and political rationale has enabled institutionalization of MAWs and gender equality policies

As a strategy, intersectorality has been a successful action proposal, but it has imposed a permanent effort of rallying and coordination on MAWs.

It is still a challenge to commit all levels of the hierarchy to the process.

The success of plans at the sector level depends on the aims of the plans being linked up with the goals and targets of each sector.

Follow-up systems tend to be linked with management processes; better information is needed on outcomes and their impacts on gender equality.



# Shifting from public management review to measuring the impact of gender equality policies on women's rights and autonomy

The delicate negotiation over budget resources is affected by:

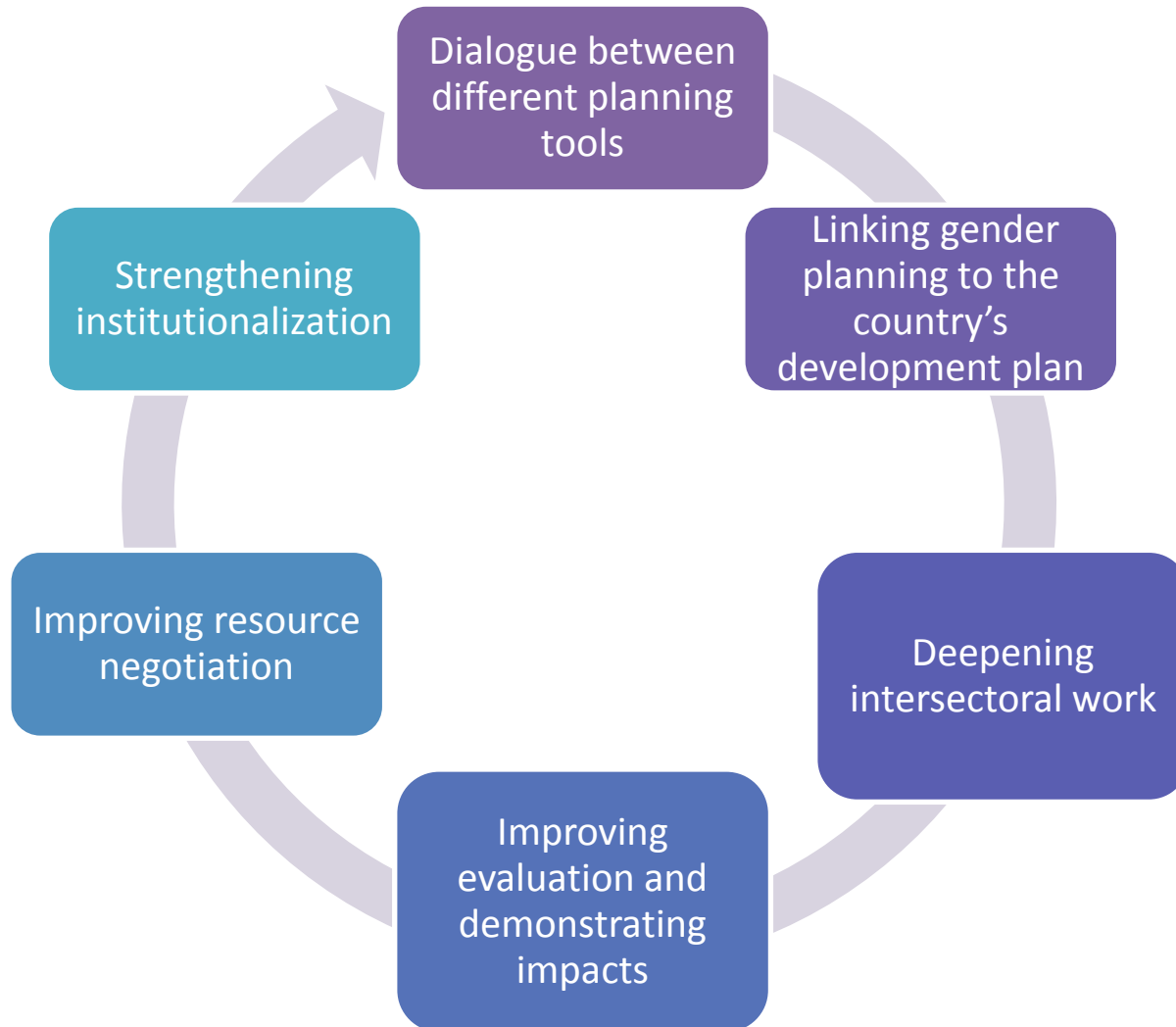
- The inability to show positive outcomes and impacts on women's lives, owing to inadequate follow-up and evaluation systems for assessing the outcomes of gender equality plans.
- Weak systems of follow-up indicators in gender equality plans.
- Insufficient production of knowledge on the impacts of policies on women's lives affects reforms and the redefinition of gender equality policies —and therefore the allocation of fresh resources.

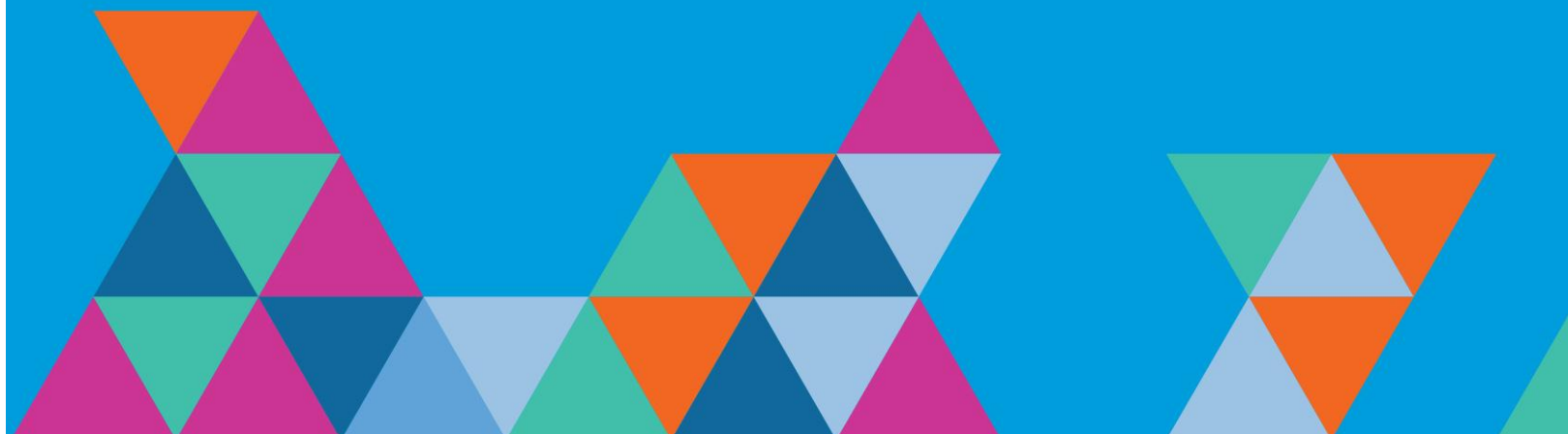
All the countries have raised the profile of gender equality policies in public budgets: this is mainly in relation to policies for combating violence against women, while gender equality policies overall still have only a weak budget presence.

Lack of coordination between goals and resources is a barrier to the implementation of plans.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development poses enormous challenges for the region's countries. Without gender equality, sustainable development is neither true development, nor sustainable





Thank you.



<http://www.cepal.org/es/areas-de-trabajo/asuntos-de-genero>

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

