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High-level panel: Partnerships, achievements, and challenges in advancing the Regional Gender Agenda

Good afternoon, everyone, it is an honor for UN Women to participate in this high-level panel.

First, I would like to greet Antonia Orellana, Minister of Women and Gender Equality of Chile, for acting as moderator of this panel, as well as the committed women who join me at this table. An affectionate greeting to Gladys Acosta Vargas, Alejandra Mora Mora, María Teresa Zapeta, Virginia Vargas, Ayesha Constable and Paola Yañez.

Strengthening the articulated work of the different actors you mention involves multiple challenges: resistance to the incorporation of gender equality, the need to strengthen technical capacities, and the lack of allocated budgets. Any of these shortcomings can be applied to governments as well as to international agencies or civil society organizations.

All this is in a context in which, while we are still suffering the impact of the pandemic, the crisis has worsened with ramifications that affect the financial system, governance, food security, and the effects of climate change, which affects women to a greater extent, especially women in vulnerable situations. We are witnessing the precariousness of women's living conditions and the centrality of care in the proper functioning of economies and societies and in making women's economic autonomy a reality.

Often, these challenges can constitute an inexpugnable barrier and leave initiatives unfinished. However, we have also witnessed so many times that with the firm and determined commitment of the Ministries of Women's Affairs, as governing bodies within the States, with the support of the Agencies of the United Nations System and

in coordination with civil society, we can overcome the obstacles through joint initiatives with a significant impact.

In this regard, I would like to share with you several experiences that demonstrate that, when the commitment is firm, the sum of wills achieves great goals:

- Within the framework of the strategic alliance with ECLAC, the last Regional Consultations before the CSW have been carried out jointly, in coordination with the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference. This has made it possible to increase the technical and political relevance of these consultations where, on the one hand, a reference document on the priority topic of the CSW is provided, and on the other hand, the negotiation and adoption of a Declaration are facilitated, which is presented by the Permanent Missions of the countries of the region as an input for the negotiation of the Agreed Conclusions.

These prior consultations have had the active participation of more than 200 national authorities and activists from all over the region. In addition, it is important to highlight the participation of feminist and women's organizations, which have their own place on the agenda, and hold a meeting prior to the regional consultation. Thanks to this coordinated work, the regional Declarations have had an influential impact on the Agreed Conclusions of CSW65 and CSW66.

- Another example that I would like to share with you is the Regional Consultation on General Recommendation 39 of the CEDAW on the rights of indigenous women and girls, which took place in Mexico last month and which demonstrates once again that when there is political will and technical capacity, the results benefit the women and girls for whom we work. On this occasion, 58 indigenous women leaders that belong to 33 indigenous peoples provided their contributions to the draft General Recommendation, asserting their right to influence initiatives that affect them.

Thanks to this joint effort by the Government of Mexico, the CEDAW Committee of Experts, the International Indigenous Women's Forum, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, and UN Women, an encounter which guarantees that the voice of the region's indigenous women will be incorporated into the text of General Recommendation 39, expected to be adopted in October of this year, was possible.

- Finally, I would like to bring you the example of the Global Alliance for Care, an initiative promoted by the Government of Mexico, through INMUJERES, and UN Women, which was created to address the burden of care that hinders women's

economic opportunities and currently has more than 52 members from governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, among others.

This Global Alliance is a space where it is possible to work, co-create and move forward collectively to put the implementation of the global feminist care agenda at the forefront. A space where we can interact with the world from a regional level is an excellent example of the results of the Action Coalition for Justice and Economic Rights of the Equality Generation Forum and how it is influencing at a global level.

I hope these examples will inspire us to continue working together for gender equality and the full exercise of women's rights in the region within the framework of the Regional Gender Agenda.

Thank you very much.