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

Santiago, 17-19 November 2014

SPECIAL SESSION ON BEIJING+20 IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Statement

We, ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women, gathered in representation of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, reaffirming our commitment to the Beijing gender equality agenda and to the acceleration of its implementation, with a human-rights-based approach,

Recognize the achievements and progress made in the past 20 years which, although a key contribution to democracy, development and peace, are nonetheless insufficient and show, as we have stated on many occasions, that gender equality and the exercise of the human rights of women and girls are essential to eradicate poverty and attain higher standards of equality, peace and security, and the three pillars —economic, social and environmental— of sustainable development, in a context that presents new challenges and opportunities;

Strenuously reaffirm all international commitments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará), and regional commitments adopted in recent times, including the Santo Domingo Consensus and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which represent the most up-to-date regional position of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Emphasize the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, the feminist movement and youth organizations, in achieving progress towards the objectives set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the political will demonstrated by the Governments in endorsing the agendas of those organizations, and recognize that the advances made have been the fruit of key partnerships formed by women within and outside the scope of the State, which should be strengthened with a view to the post-2015 development agenda;

Commit to promoting the post-2015 development agenda in the appropriate forums, in order to ensure that it includes a specific goal on gender equality and mainstreams the gender and human-rights perspective through all its goals, targets and indicators;

Reiterate that the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda at the regional level constitutes a strategic opportunity to advance gender equality and women's autonomy through monitoring and follow-up of sectoral agendas within the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

Recognize the challenges identified by our Governments and by civil society organizations in different forums, and pledge to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective fulfilment of commitments, especially those aimed at expediting the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and of regional consensuses, which will require greater allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting and accountability with a view to strengthening the implementation of equality policies in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2015;

Reaffirm the importance of gender statistics and indicators to monitor and follow up on the post-2015 development agenda, placing a particular emphasis on dialogue between producers and users of data and promoting the allocation of sufficient resources by States and international cooperation agencies in order to compile pertinent, timely and reliable information;

Decide to establish a technical working group on gender budgeting, which will comprise representatives of the Governments of the countries of the region and civil society and will be supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

Commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women upon the organization of this special session as a regional forum for discussion and decision-making on the gender equality agenda in preparation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in the institutional framework of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request that the outcome of this special session be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women at that session.