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Fiftieth meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 19-20 May 2014

AGREEMENTS

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

1. *Make* the necessary efforts to ensure that the content of the Santo Domingo Consensus, adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, October 2013) and the content of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, August 2013), are included in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;

2. *Ask* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to update the Presiding Officers regularly on the agenda and work of each of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and, in consultation with the chairs of those subsidiary bodies, to consider the possibility of holding a joint meeting during the first half of 2015 between the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, with the aim of facilitating coordination and synergies between them;

3. *Ask* also the ECLAC secretariat to boost coordination between the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system to support gender mainstreaming in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;

4. *Foster* close coordination between organizations working to define the sustainable development goals and the national machineries for the advancement of women in order to ensure that the gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the process and is incorporated as a target in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;

5. *Strengthen* the production of official statistics with a gender perspective so that these can contribute to the development and implementation of the gender equality agenda, drawing simultaneously on information sources such as administration records, surveys and censuses; and urge the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to consider in its programme of work the proposal for a minimum set of gender indicators, as adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission during its forty-fifth session;

6. *Recognize* the efforts of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and promote the participation of producers and users of statistics in the fifteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, to be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 5 to 7 November 2014, and in the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, which will take place in the same city from 3 to 5 November 2014;

7. *Recognize* also the efforts of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and provide support so that it is able to continue working on the production of gender statistics using the conceptual framework of physical, economic and decision-making autonomy;

8. *Promote* the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation among the countries of the region in the processes of assigning an economic value to unpaid work, using the classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean and calculating the satellite account on households' unpaid work;

9. *Ask* the region's countries to submit to the secretariat, within one month, proposals regarding the initiative put forward by the Dominican Republic for the development of a regional strategy to ensure that the Santo Domingo Consensus is a key instrument in coordinating and implementing the gender equality agenda in the region by: (a) publicizing the Santo Domingo Consensus among decision makers, international cooperation agencies, civil society, the media and society across the region, to raise its profile and implement it effectively; (b) developing strategic partnerships for obtaining financial and technical resources in order to implement the Consensus in the countries of the region; (c) strengthening the role of machineries for the advancement of women as stakeholders in regional and subregional agendas; and (d) participating in debates and negotiations so as to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals include the gender perspective;

10. *Reiterate*, in light of the weakening of some national machineries for the advancement of women, the importance of subparagraph 6 (xix) of the Mexico City Consensus, "Guarantee that national machineries for the advancement of women are provided with financial and human resources, build their political capacity and consolidate their institutional status at the highest possible level to ensure that they can fulfil their mandates efficiently and effectively", subparagraph 1 (i) of the Quito Consensus and subparagraph 3 (f) of the Brasilia Consensus;

11. *Reaffirm* the importance of strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women, providing them with financial and technical resources and conferring on them the highest possible status within the government structure;

12. *Express concern* over the possible closure of the Office of the Women's Advocate of Puerto Rico, a machinery for promoting and defending women's rights in that country, and request that the Chair of the Presiding Officers send a note to the authorities of Puerto Rico stressing that this course of action contravenes the Santo Domingo Consensus and other regional and international agreements signed by the countries;

13. *Condemn* the recent kidnapping of a group of girls in Nigeria, which is an example of the violence suffered by women, who are still treated as chattels in many parts of the world, and *join* international calls for their safety and immediate release;

14. *Strengthen* the work of the region's countries with regard to ongoing progress towards economic autonomy, equal rights and hunger reduction, in accordance with the Santiago Declaration adopted at the meeting "Women in the International Year of Family Farming", held in Santiago on 10 and 11 April 2014 as part of the support activities organized for the thirty-third FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Santiago from 6 to 9 May 2014;

15. *Congratulate* the Government of Ecuador on the adoption of the Organization Act on National Councils for Equality by its National Assembly;

16. *Congratulate* also the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Peru on the achievements with regard to the project "Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America" implemented by the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany;

17. *Ask* ECLAC to ensure that the Division for Gender Affairs, in coordination with other substantive divisions, continue to support the development of compacts on women's economic autonomy in countries that have already initiated this process, and to extend this support to any other countries that may request it;

18. *Congratulate* ECLAC on the inclusion in the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of the seminar "Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America", which focused on women's economic autonomy but was also relevant to their physical autonomy and decision-making;

19. *Congratulate* also the Government of Chile on the public policies adopted to further the process of change in favour of gender equality, and recognize the valuable participation in this meeting of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and the Minister and Director of the National Women's Service of Chile;

20. *Congratulate* in particular the delegation from the Dominican Republic, as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on its presentation at the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC and for its efforts to ensure that the member countries of the Commission reaffirmed the Santo Domingo Consensus at that meeting.