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

Virtual meeting, 23–25 February 2021

AGREEMENTS

At their sixtieth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the 1 Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Recognize* that the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had unprecedented effects on sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental—, leading to the sharpest contraction of economic activity in the region’s history, with a disproportionately heavy impact on women and girls that deepens the structural obstacles of gender inequality;

2. *Call for* COVID-19 response and recovery policies to incorporate a gender perspective, to include participation by women in their design and implementation and to help to overcome the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, exclusion and inequality that disproportionately affect women in all their diversity and are manifest in increased unemployment and poverty, as well as in the overburden of paid and unpaid domestic and care work, and which threaten to widening existing gaps and reverse progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda;

3. *Reaffirm* the commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming at the different levels of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with citizen participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

4. *Commend* the efforts made by the countries of the region to implement the Santiago Commitment and congratulate those that have implemented measures in synergy with this regional agreement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

5. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for advancing in the implementation of the Santiago Commitment and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

6. *Call* on developed countries, the agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations, and other key stakeholders to provide financial resources and to cooperate on capacity-building, to accelerate implementation of the Santiago Commitment and the Montevideo Strategy, taking into account the specificities of least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

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

8. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Welcome* the launch of the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, developed in conjunction with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region, particularly the focus on gender in the section “Measures and actions at the national level” of the Observatory, and urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue the tasks that ensure that this platform is constantly maintained and updated;

10. *Thank* the representatives and participants in the high-level panels on the autonomy of women in recovery with gender equality, the role of international trade recovery with gender equality and of climate change challenges for sustainable recovery with equality, and acknowledge that these panels are a regional forum for the exchange and development of proposals to overcome the pandemic and mitigate its effects through people-centred responses with a gender, human-rights-based and intersectional approach;

11. *Promote* a regional partnership for the digitalization of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Chile in its capacity as chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to close gender gaps in access to, skills development for and use of information and communications technologies by women and girls and to promote full participation by women in the digital economy, and request the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support countries in implementing the initiative, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

12. *Acknowledge* the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements and organizations of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, rural women, youth, girls and adolescents, women with disabilities and women migrants, as well as human rights defenders and women in all their diversity, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda;

13. *Take note* of the report on the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminists Organizations and Movements, presented by the board of directors of the Fund, in which the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is designated the administrative body;

14. *Recommend* that the governments of the Latin America and the Caribbean and of other regions, developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders contribute financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminists Organizations and Movements;

15. *Thank* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for its presentation on the priority areas that will guide the development of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;

16. *Congratulate* the Peruvian sociologist and lawyer Gladys Acosta Vargas upon her appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for the period from January 2021 to December 2024 and support the commitment of the governments of the region to progress towards gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

17. *Welcome* the holding of the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, co-chaired by France and Mexico, to begin virtually from Mexico City on 29, 30 and 31 March and to continue in Paris in the second half of 2021, and call upon all the countries of the region to participate actively and with commitment in this process and firmly support participation by members of civil society;

18. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their efficient co-organization of the regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers;

19. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the success of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers and acknowledge the contributions of the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair, for the special regional consultation in preparation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of this meeting of the Presiding Officers;

20. *Welcome* the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

21. *Present* the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation and the agreements of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2021;

22. *Emphasize* that the current situation must be taken as an opportunity to ensure, through affirmative actions, women's full participation in sectors of the economy that are strategic for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and, in particular, to promote recovery plans that strengthen the care economy as a dynamic sector of the economy as a whole.