



Meeting of the
Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean
29–30 September 2021

30 September 2021
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Sixty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 29–30 September 2021

AGREEMENTS

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

1. *Reaffirm* the importance and urgency of implementing the agreements adopted at the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and reiterate that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic 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. *Reiterate* their call for COVID-19 response and recovery policies to incorporate a gender perspective, to include participation by all women and girls 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 and girls 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 equality 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. *Reject* unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, including the right to development, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls that are worsened in times of pandemic, and hinder the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Thank* the representatives and participants in the high-level panel “Towards a care society for recovery with gender equality and sustainability”, and acknowledge the value of that panel as a regional space for discussion and reflection regarding the deepening care crisis in the context of social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a disproportionately high impact on women and girls by intensifying the structural obstacles to gender equality, and for the preparation of proposals for fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

6. *Welcome* the report on the Regional Alliance for Women’s Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcome* the report on the Regional Fund in support of Women’s and Feminist Organizations and Movements, presented by its Board of Directors, which refers to the first call to strengthen women’s and feminist organizations and to progress made regarding operational aspects of the Fund;

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

9. *Commend* the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and co-hosted by Mexico and France, first in Mexico City from 29–31 March 2021 then in Paris from 30 June to 2 July, along with the active and committed participation of the countries of the region in this process, and notably of members of civil society and feminists in the region, especially from youth organizations;

10. *Welcome* the International statement about the importance of care in the human rights arena, presented jointly by Argentina and Mexico and co-sponsored by 50 countries at the forty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, on 22 September 2021, which underscores the importance of care as a human rights issue, recognizes the importance of care for countries’ development and the need to foster greater redistribution of care, and calls for the elimination of legal, institutional and policy barriers for the benefit of the human rights of women and girls, particularly to guarantee their full and effective participation in the economic sphere;

11. *Welcome* the Global Alliance for Care Work, launched by Mexico with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as a co-creative space for multiple actors where governments, international institutions, the private sector, the academic sector, philanthropic organizations, young people and civil society organizations can share experiences and good practices to make progress in the agenda for the right to care at the global level, recognizing the support expressed by some countries of the region for this agenda and inviting the other countries of the region to join this initiative;

12. *Commend* the progress made by some countries of the region with regard to ensuring that all women and girls exercise their sexual and reproductive rights free from violence and discrimination;

13. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to jointly organize the Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation in preparation for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference;

14. *Adopt* the subject “The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality”, as the central theme of discussion at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account the contributions made at the present meeting;

15. *Also adopt* the proposal of the secretariat on the road map for the preparatory process of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes subregional sessions, meetings with experts and a broad participatory process, and urge the governments to participate activities in the activities to be carried out in the first half of 2022;

16. *Commend* 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, for the fruitful organization of this meeting of the Presiding Officers;

17. *Acknowledge* the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Presiding Officers, and express thanks for its report, as host country, on the preparations under way for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

18. *Advance* recovery plans with affirmative actions that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full and effective participation of women in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society.