

THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

At their thirty-eighth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the following agreements:

1. To reiterate the importance of the Mexico City Consensus, which was adopted at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a basic platform for formulating public policies and to continue their efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this instrument at the national and regional levels.
2. To congratulate the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region on the preparation of the document *The Millennium Development Goals: a perspective from Latin America and the Caribbean* and to urge them to continue their efforts in this regard.
3. To congratulate the regional organizations in the United Nations system on the use of complementary gender indicators in assessing progress towards fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and to request that indicators on women's human rights and especially on the right of women to a life free of violence be incorporated in forthcoming documents.
4. To reiterate the commitment of Governments to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and to reaffirm their will to mainstream the gender perspective beyond goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women" and considering the necessary synergies, especially between goal 1: "Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty" and goal 8 "Develop a global partnership for development".
5. To welcome the regional and international initiatives oriented towards incorporating a target in the Millennium Development Goals that guarantees universal access to sexual and reproductive health services
6. To request that the heads of State and Government attending the High-level Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly to review progress in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals ensure that the United Nations reform process includes a coherent and transparent institutional framework for promoting gender equality at all levels.
7. To note with satisfaction the outcome of the project "Labour policies with a gender perspective", conducted by the Women and Development Unit of the

Commission with financial support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), to congratulate the Commission on the modalities of its execution and to request it to obtain the necessary resources for extending the project to other countries of the region.

8. To welcome the agreements adopted at the thirteenth meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the establishment of an inter-agency working group on violence against women coordinated by the Commission, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/185.
9. To request the Commission to include in the document to be presented at its thirty-first session (Montevideo, Uruguay, 20-24 March 2006) the main conclusions of the panel entitled "Policies for social protection, the care economy and gender equity", and the discussions held at the present meeting of the Presiding Officers, especially those relating to theoretical and political aspects of social security from a gender perspective, including poverty alleviation programmes, social insurance systems and unpaid work of women.
10. To include senior representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women in the official delegations that will be attending the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (New York, 14-16 September 2005), the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, 4-5 November 2005), the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 2006) and the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, 20-24 March 2006).
11. To urge government representatives who will be participating in the Fourth Summit of the Americas to incorporate the gender perspective in their documents, discussions and agreements, in addressing the items on the agenda of the Summit, in particular job creation and the formulation of labour policies for overcoming poverty, bearing in mind gender-differentiated impacts and the need to reconcile productive and reproductive work for men and women, as prerequisites for democratic governance.
12. To thank the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for her participation in the thirty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as her commitment to forging closer links with the countries of the region and strengthening respect for women's human rights.
13. To request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that in the process of reform of her office and in consultation with the

States Members of the United Nations, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women does not lose the political scope and the development vision that it maintains at its current office in New York.

14. To reaffirm the importance of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the need for its ratification.
15. To reaffirm also the importance of disseminating the Convention, Protocol and final observations of the Committee in member countries, including among civil society and women.
16. To congratulate the United Nations Development Fund for Women for the inputs made in its document “Pathway to gender equality”, as a contribution to Governments and civil society.
17. To convene the thirty-ninth meeting of Presiding Officers during the first half of 2006 and to welcome the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the event.
18. To commend and thank the Government of Argentina for its excellent organization of the meeting.