

AGREEMENTS

Port of Spain, 7-8 July 2009

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

1. *Welcome* the proposal by the secretariat for the organization of work in preparation for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Brasilia from 13 to 16 July 2010;

2. *Approve* the proposal made by the secretariat at this meeting for the organization of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, which may be enhanced by contributions submitted in a timely manner by the countries to the secretariat;

3. *Approve also* the proposal for the preparation of the position paper for the eleventh Regional Conference, with the observations made at this meeting, which will be included in the report, along with others which will be sent to the secretariat in writing;

4. *Request* the member countries of the Regional Conference to propose to the secretariat, sufficiently in advance, names of possible experts for the panels to be organized in the framework of the eleventh session of the Conference;

5. *Send* to the secretariat the necessary information and inputs that may be useful for the preparation of the regional document to be presented at Brasilia in 2010;

6. *Require* that the information on the Caribbean member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean be sent to the subregional headquarters of the Commission in Port of Spain;

7. *Send* in advance, in electronic format, national reports on the follow-up to the Quito Consensus, to be presented to the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to optimize time use during the session, and ask the secretariat to provide a web page on which these reports may be consulted;

8. *Bear in mind* the principle of gender parity in the composition of the delegations participating in the eleventh session of the Regional Conference and incorporate members of the executive, legislative and judicial powers, representatives of civil society and of women's networks with a track record in following up the Beijing Platform for Action, and indigenous, Afro-descendent and young women, among other important actors;

9. *Call upon* international partners and United Nations agencies and donors to make available the financial support necessary to enable the participation of national representatives in regional meetings, including the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

10. *Request* the Government of Brazil to prepare and send to the member countries of the Commission, with the support of the secretariat, a draft of the Brasilia Consensus and a proposal for the holding of preliminary consultations on its contents, at least 90 days before the beginning of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference;

11. *Hold* two electronic forums, one in English and the other in Spanish, to analyse and comment on the substantive document before the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, on dates to be announced in due course;

12. *Promote* the organization of side events in the framework of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, which may address such aspects as:

- (a) Gender policies for the information society;
- (b) Violence against women, its costs and impacts. This will include, among other aspects, the Secretary-General's Campaign UNite to end violence against women, the costs of sexual and intra-family violence, sexual and labour exploitation and child pornography;
- (c) Advances made by the private sector in promoting equality of opportunities for economic development in the region;
- (d) The role of the media in disseminating information on the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (e) Gender, employment, migration and remittances;
- (f) Universal health coverage: an agenda for women;
- (g) Celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- (h) Natural disasters and climate change and their impact on the lives of women;
- (i) The impact of the economic crisis on the lives of women.

13. *Ensure* that the framework of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean provides an opportunity for the dissemination of all types of audiovisual and other multimedia materials on gender issues that promote the use of information and communications technologies to achieve greater impacts on policies and programmes;

14. *Invite* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations to participate actively in the organization of the side events held during the eleventh session of the Regional Conference and to support those events;

15. *Recommend* that the eleventh session of the Regional Conference be transmitted on the Internet in its entirety;

16. *Request* the secretariat to prepare a subregional report for the Caribbean based on responses to the Questionnaire on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);

17. *Welcome* the proposal made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream the gender perspective in the construction of policies for the information society;

18. *Recognize* that decentralization is a priority issue on the gender agenda and that public policies at the local level should be directed towards the specific needs of women;

19. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the other agencies that support the Gender Equality Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean on the work carried out and on the considerable progress of this initiative, whose establishment was agreed upon at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and commend the Government of Brazil on the establishment of its gender equality observatory;

20. *Disseminate* the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean broadly within universities, government forums and civil society, in order that this statistical and analytical tool may serve for the formulation of social initiatives and government policies that promote gender equality;

21. *Establish* links to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean from the websites of national machineries for the advancement of women and from the Observatory to other relevant United Nations agencies;

22. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that the technical sheets of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean explicitly mention, where appropriate, national machineries for the advancement of women and national statistical institutes as primary sources of indicators;

23. *Collaborate* actively with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the generation and annual updating (every 31 December) of the information needed for the indicators included in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those that concern access to decision-making;

24. *Strengthen* relations with national statistical institutes and national electoral agencies or tribunals and other national authorities in order to improve the availability of electoral and institutional information disaggregated by sex;

25. *Increase* efforts to exchange experiences between and within regions in order to improve training on the development and use of gender indicators;

26. *Condemn* energetically the *coup d'état* in the Republic of Honduras and express the growing concern of the countries of the region whose representatives participate in the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean over the impacts that the disturbance of the democratic order in that country may have on its population, especially women, and demand the prompt and peaceful reinstatement of the legitimately elected authorities;

27. *Reiterate* the support of the countries for the attainment of the objectives of the Secretary-General's Campaign to end violence against women and participate actively in the launch of the campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009, and request the United Nations system to establish coordination mechanisms in order to articulate the campaign at the national, regional and global levels;

28. *Request* the Chair of the Presiding Officers to transmit to the nineteenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Estoril, Portugal, on 30 November and 1 December 2009, the following:

- (a) In view of the importance of gender equality for the promotion of our countries' development models and the fact that sustainable development is not possible without full participation by women in the economy, decision-making and innovation, it is recommended that the outcome documents incorporate a gender perspective and that measures be adopted towards the objective of reducing the gender digital divide, including the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the promotion of non-discriminatory contents;
- (b) It is recommended that the sectoral conference of ministers responsible for gender policies should be held in the framework of the twentieth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

29. *Further request* the Chair of the Presiding Officers to transmit to the Caribbean Community Secretariat the agreements of the forty-third meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women for Latin America and the Caribbean for their consideration by the relevant bodies of the Caribbean Community, in particular the nineteenth meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development;

30. *Thank* the Government and the people of Trinidad and Tobago for their generous hospitality and efficient organization in hosting the forty-third meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.