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Fifty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Havana, 5-6 October 2017

AGREEMENTS

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

1. *Commend* the Government of Cuba and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for holding the commemorative session and the round table on the fortieth anniversary of the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, and the tribute to Vilma Espín, first President of the Federation of Cuban Women and first Chair of the Regional Conference;
2. *Acknowledge* the past contributions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to building a heterodox understanding of the economy and of gender equality as a universal public good, as well as recognizing that mainstreaming gender equality is essential for achieving sustainable development;
3. *Welcome* the repository of legislation on migration and gender of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, compiled jointly by the International Organization for Migration and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and urge United Nations bodies to contribute to the sustainability of the Observatory;
4. *Recognize* and welcome the technical assistance provided by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for national gender equality observatories, facilitating data comparability and the construction of time series;
5. *Reaffirm* the commitment to formulate State plans and policies for gender equality linked to national sustainable development strategies, in accordance with the agreements included in the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, in order to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective and women's autonomies and rights in public policies;
6. *Recognize* the high-level panel on implementing gender equality plans in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a space for peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences and lessons learned, and thank all the countries that participated in that dialogue;

7. *Highlight* the methodology for preparing gender equality plans within the sustainable development framework prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and request that it provide technical assistance to governments that are designing their plans or reformulating existing ones and promote experience-sharing among countries;

8. *Follow up* on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy at all levels and in all sectors of public policy in accordance with national priorities, particularly gender equality and sustainable development plans, and ensure that they have funding;

9. *Reaffirm* the commitment to strengthen the capacities of the machineries for the advancement of women to enter into dialogue and ensure coordination with different government bodies, in particular with ministries of the economy, with a view to mainstreaming the gender perspective in economic policies and budgets, and with ministries of foreign affairs in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Acknowledge* the open-ended efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to convene, since 1992, meetings of the Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled *Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all*,¹ reaffirm the importance of this body in supporting the countries in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the framework of the meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to compile a progress report on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of Goal 5 —achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls— as part of the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to include the Goals' indicators in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean;

12. *Thank* the secretariat for the information regarding the second session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Montevideo from 25 to 27 October 2017, the special meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Santiago from 7 to 9 November 2017, the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 14 to 17 November 2017, and the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which will take place in Mexico in 2018, and request that it continue its efforts to successfully mainstream the gender perspective into the discussions and commitments of the Forum and the aforementioned subsidiary bodies of the Commission;

13. *Adopt* women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios and the progress indicators of the Montevideo Strategy as the main theme of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into consideration the discussions at the meeting;

¹ A/72/124–E/2018/3.

14. *Request* the secretariat to develop a road map for the preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that includes subregional meetings, meetings with experts and a broad participatory process that draws on the successful working methodology used for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016;

15. *Welcome* the document prepared by the Government of Mexico and the consultation process undertaken by the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, and continue their discussions, respecting the timeline to be drawn up by the working group before December 2017;

16. *Also welcome* the incorporation of the Governments of Honduras and Panama into the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements;

17. *Acknowledge* the institutional progress made by the machineries for the advancement of women in the region, in particular the creation of the National Women's Institution of Argentina;

18. *Express* their solidarity with Governments, peoples and especially the women and girls of Guatemala and Mexico who have faced the consequences of the devastating earthquakes, and of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Martin, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Central America, which were badly hit by the recent hurricanes, and promote cooperation on extreme weather event adaption and responses, disaster risk management and resilience-building from a gender perspective;

19. *Welcome* the humanitarian aid provided by the Governments of the region and the organizations of the United Nations system as part of the recovery efforts in the areas affected by the recent natural disasters;

20. *Thank* and congratulate the Government of Cuba for the excellent organization of the meeting, especially the work and the leadership of the Federation of Cuban Women, and express strong support for and solidarity with the Cuban people in the face of the recent storms and hurricanes that have affected the island and recognize the national recovery efforts undertaken, despite the economic, financial and trade embargo;

21. *Convene* the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the second quarter of 2018 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago.