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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND
OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON THE ADVANCEMENT
OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santo Domingo, 29 July 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mandate

1. The twenty-second meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, and with the agreements adopted at the United Nations inter-agency coordination meeting for the Latin American and Caribbean region, held on 6 May 1999 in Santiago.

Place and date of the meeting

2. The twenty-second meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santo Domingo on 29 July 2015.

Attendance¹

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. Also attending were representatives of the following specialized agencies: International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

5. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), EU-LAC Foundation and Organization of American States (OAS).

B. AGENDA

6. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the activities carried out by the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system on the advancement of women since their last meeting (Santo Domingo, 14 October 2013).

¹ See annex.

3. Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Adoption of agreements.
6. Other matters.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

7. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the participants, reviewed the previous 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 said that the fact that there were forums focusing on gender equality in almost all of the system's organizations constituted progress. UN-Women was a global body, and it was important to persevere in tackling the challenge of inter-agency coordination.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

8. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs submitted the provisional agenda (LC/L.4037 (OEM.22/2)), for consideration by the participants, who adopted it without amendment.

Report on the activities carried out by the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system on the advancement of women since their last meeting (Santo Domingo, 14 October 2013) (agenda item 2)

9. The Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC presented a report on the activities carried out by ECLAC since the twenty-first meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on 14 October 2013 in Santo Domingo. ECLAC had continued to work on the agenda of women's economic autonomy, focusing on statistical production, public policy analysis, and the promotion of regional debate and intersectoral compacts. Convergence was being sought in the agendas of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC, especially those of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, via institutional exchanges between the chairs.

10. She also said that, as part of the follow-up to Beijing+20, a special session had been held in the framework of the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 17-19 November 2014), representing an opportunity for regional consultation and discussion regarding that process, as reported at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015. At that meeting, the *Regional review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) in Latin American and Caribbean countries*² had been presented, which had been prepared on the basis of national reports.

² LC/L.3951.

11. She then described the activities carried out in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals. She also reported on ECLAC projects, such as the analysis of women's economic autonomy and its link to the 2030 Agenda, which had been supported by the Government of Norway; the United Nations Development Account project on care systems and urban development in Cuenca, Mexico City, Montevideo and Santiago; the work supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), which had ensured the sustainability of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean over time; and the successful campaign "Exige igualdad".

12. The Social Affairs Officer subsequently referred to the gender mainstreaming process at ECLAC, which was set out in the position document presented at the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC in Lima in 2014, one of the publications in the equality trilogy. Lastly, she described the publications produced during the period, and the impact of the direct technical assistance and the distance-learning courses run with ILPES cooperation (on subjects such as gender statistics, time use, measurement of violence against women and public care policies), in addition to regional face-to-face courses on gender planning and as follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women and peace and security.

13. The representative of UN-Women suggested holding a course that would enable the leaders of the organizations to reach a joint position on the status of gender statistics. Better communication, more synergies and closer coordination between the organizations were needed.

14. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC welcomed that suggestion and proposed that future meetings of the specialized agencies should include a session for the development of a priority theme for gender equality. She offered to set up an online platform for the dissemination of information and documents that would facilitate the coordination of events planned by the organizations.

15. The Chief of the Gender and Diversity Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) suggested that future meetings could include mini-workshops to provide an update on subjects such as the link between economic empowerment and violence against women. The Bank was continuing its efforts to mainstream the gender perspective, using a wide range of indicators to measure the results. He highlighted the projects financed through direct investment, whose main goal was gender equality. Analytical work was being carried out with the network of women in leadership roles in the region's public sector. IDB had launched a project on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, which aimed to combat discrimination.

16. The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS) suggested that virtual meetings could be held between the specialized agencies, to ensure more continuous coordination. Coordination between OAS and ECLAC had been good, but could be further strengthened with regard to violence against women, resolution 1325(2000), financing for development and the gender indicators. She reported that they were working on the indicators to follow up on women's human rights in the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention of Belém do Pará, and in coordination with the Working Group to Examine the National Reports Envisioned in the Protocol of San Salvador of the Organization of American States, and said that the Inter-American Commission of Women wished to broaden the dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on financing for development.

17. The Regional Adviser on Gender of UNICEF said that gender-based violence and adolescent pregnancy were priority themes. She highlighted the work on the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), with gender indicators, on the basis of which qualitative and quantitative indicators would be developed to generate a database on girls and women. She also announced that UNICEF and ECLAC would be launching a study on the situation of girls and adolescents in the region.

18. The Gender Officer of FAO for the region referred to FAO efforts to encourage the coordination of activities in relation to the Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). She also reported on the activities of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger and said that an event would be organized in Quito to study in depth the Brasilia Declaration adopted at the Conference on Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2014.

19. The Gender Affairs Specialist of ILO said that time-use surveys needed to be harmonized with the Convention on Domestic Workers (No.189) (2013). She expressed concern regarding the difficulties countries would have in adopting the sustainable development goal indicators and suggested anticipating those problems and creating joint proposals for the provision of support. She reported that the Regional Seminar on Informal Work had been held in Lima on a tripartite basis and mentioned the associated studies. She also discussed the activities carried out with women in the business sector, the analysis of social protection programmes and the cost of incorporating the gender perspective, the prevention of violence and abuse in the workplace, the discrimination against sexually diverse populations, the management of labour migration with a gender focus, and indigenous women.

20. The representative of UNDP reported on the work being done to create a system for monitoring women's political participation, the aim of which was to analyse the quality of their participation and the decisions they took (Atenea project). Efforts were being made to link the measurement of violence against women with public safety and a seminar had been held, attended by organizations such as IDB and ECLAC. She reported on one study that had been prepared in conjunction with UN-Women on policies to prevent violence against women, on a second study that had been conducted in conjunction with UNFPA and UNICEF on violence in schools, on the tools relating to the social protection floor that use the ILO definitions, and on the hallmarks of gender equality implemented in the region. Lastly, she said that mainstreaming, both inside and outside the organization, remained one of the most difficult tasks.

21. The representative of UNFPA stressed the work carried out with girls and adolescents and highlighted the reports on child marriage and the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. Work would be carried out, together with other United Nations bodies, to bring the age for marriage into line with the age of majority and to abolish the need for parental authorization. The key lines of action would remain the same, such as the right to maternal health, the prevention of obstetric violence, the cultural relevance of services, and the role of birth attendants. She reported on new projects, which related to themes such as the problem of human security at borders, sexual and reproductive health and migration, access to reproductive health, and sexual diversity. She concluded by announcing that the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was being organized by ECLAC and supported by UNFPA and would be held in Mexico, would address population trends and their impact on sustainable development, in order to make progress towards the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus.

22. The Regional Director of UN-Women for the Americas and the Caribbean emphasized the integration of initiatives between the organizations in the system. She highlighted the consultation process undertaken in the context of Beijing+20, the links with the Millennium Development Goals and the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and civil society participation. She also highlighted the link between UN-Women's Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women and invited participants to attend the following Regional Consultation, to be held in Brazil in November 2015. She then mentioned the technical assistance provided to countries for the preparation of national reports for Beijing+20, which had demonstrated that the information available was of a better quality.

23. She recognized the efforts made by all organizations to refine statistical production in the countries and the need to improve data quality in light of the proposal to mainstream all the goals, targets and indicators relating to the sustainable development goals. ECLAC was the obvious organization to carry out the measurements and it would be necessary to decide where the information would be stored and how to endow the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of ECLAC with greater human and financial resources.

24. The Regional Director of UN-Women also said that the joint project being executed with the ISOQuito team was near completion and reaffirmed the interest in preparing a new set of indicators in the areas of economics and development, which could be discussed at the International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes (Mexico). A proxy had been created for the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and a document prepared that linked each SDG with the fifth SDG, with particular attention to avoiding the generation of new demands and costs for the countries. Lastly, she mentioned the initiative to create a framework law on political parity with the Andean Parliament (Parlatino) and referred to two initiatives pursued by bodies that formed part of the Inter-agency Gender Equality Group, approved by the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC) in April 2015: to free the region of early and child marriage; and to give women greater access to land and property. Lastly, she reported on the progress made by the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women".

25. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) referred to the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014* and stressed that the main victims of people trafficking were women and girls. UNODC had conducted studies on indigenous women, although its main focus was women deprived of their liberty, and efforts were being made to implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders ("the Bangkok Rules"). She presented the initiative carried out by the UNODC office in Panama to support women deprived of their liberty, within the framework of the "UNiTE" campaign. There was a need to further develop the work with lesbian, gay, transsexual, bisexual and intersex persons and to incorporate the matter of drug use into gender analysis. The terminology used should also be revised, as it discriminated against women; the use of inclusive language in documents should instead be promoted.

26. The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women of OAS said that headway had been made with regard to women deprived of their liberty, above all in the form of the implementation of different penalties for micro-traffickers. A portal for the Convention of Belém do Pará had been created (<http://www.BelemdoPara.org>), and she recommended that information should be shared on good practices regarding implementation of the Convention. OAS had signed agreements with institutions in the justice sector with a view to changing the way that cases involving women's rights and gender equality were handled and the Sixth Conference of States parties to the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará would be held in Peru in October, with a view to analysing the challenges posed by its implementation. Lastly, she highlighted the work carried out on political violence against women and reported on the work being undertaken with the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas on gender agendas.

27. The representative of the EU-LAC Foundation reported on his organization's lines of work, referring primarily to the promotion of civil society participation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, and stressed the need for comparable information and for an exchange of experiences on political participation, violence, and economic and social participation.

28. The representative of UNESCO referred to the production of gender statistics by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Montreal (Canada), provided an analysis of the presence of women in science, and described the challenges in the area of education and sciences and the need to include links to the scientific, political and social dimensions when it came to issues such as climate change and water.

29. The Chief of the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that it would be useful to reflect on the history of indicator construction and the advances made in their development, especially in the context of the discussions regarding the SDGs. In addition, statements tended to reflect an interest in gender indicators and in gender mainstreaming (both inside and outside organizations), indicating a need for an ongoing exchange of information on those subjects. ECLAC was working on a rights-based approach and a focus on the interdependencies between autonomies, which would require progress in the development of empirical data on those relationships.

Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

30. The Coordinator of the Observatory referred to the impact of use of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. She said that the Observatory was an information resource that contributed significantly to national and regional debate among State actors, civil society and the media. She reported on the tool's media presence and highlighted its growing role in forming public opinion, which was heightened by numerous links, the main users of which were the media, according to the latest cybermetric study. Since 2009, the number of users had grown steadily, and had reached over 200,000 a year.

31. After thanking the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) for its strategic support, she said that the next step would be to redesign and modernize the Observatory's website. At the same time, the number of indicators would be increased, and the analysis of gender equality would be deepened and disseminated to a wider audience, which would require stronger relationships with institutional partners.

32. The representative of UNFPA expressed the regional directorate's commitment and interest in supporting the Observatory's work once again, given the importance of its work in her organization's sphere of work. She suggested working together on closing the gaps highlighted by the Cairo Programme of Action and making progress on the indicators of child pregnancy. It was important to target future analyses and decide how they should be prioritized, given the high number of indicators that were emerging from the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

33. The representative of UNICEF said that progress was needed on the production of indicators that could serve as a baseline and were comparable at the regional level.

34. The representative of IDB expressed interest in aligning the Observatory with the big data revolution, and in creating linkages to boost economic autonomy indicators, especially in the area of access to credit.

35. The representative of UNDP said that it would be useful to prepare basic indicators to complement what had already been developed and that he would like to discuss how work on the Genera platform could be complemented, so as to increase the use of both tools.

36. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC reminded participants that Governments had been the main users envisaged when the Observatory had been created. Widening its scope to include other users and the impact of Internet advances posed new challenges. Based on the work with the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and on the discussions regarding its indicators at the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, the tool had great potential. The technological context and the consequences of the data revolution would certainly be taken into consideration when the Observatory was redesigned.

37. In response to the concerns regarding the indicators of violence, the secretariat reported that a femicide indicator was under preparation, using official data available to 2014. The indicator was a response to legislative advances in the region and would make it possible to analyse femicide outside the limited context of intimate relationships.

Preparations for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

38. The representative of ECLAC provided an update on preparations for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was celebrating its fortieth anniversary. She reflected on the important role the subsidiary body had played in improving the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She reported on the position document, which focused on economic autonomy, and invited the agencies to publish other studies to feed into the debate. She also encouraged them to organize side events during the Conference and requested their support in facilitating the participation of the region's Governments and representatives of civil society where required.

39. The representative of ILO suggested that the Conference should address the reasons why employment gaps were not closing in line with educational advances. Given the Beijing+20 analysis, it would be necessary to deepen the analysis of the factors that were keeping women in an unequal position or that had a bearing, in addition to reporting on obstacles that had been overcome and those that remained outstanding.

40. The representative of UNDP suggested that efforts should be made to report on the new priorities for women in the light of the sustainable development goals and to identify pockets of resistance to change. A few priority issues on which joint action could be taken needed to be identified.

41. The representatives of UNFPA, UNESCO and UNICEF expressed their concern regarding the reversals that had been observed in the region among young people, including the strong currents of conservatism among educated young people, the absence of data on the situation of adolescents, and speeches that failed to take young people into account. There was an opportunity to generate analysis and arguments for those sectors.

42. The representative of FAO also expressed concern over the fact that intersectoral policies or strategies directed at rural women operated independently of the machineries for the advancement of women, which compelled the Conference to devote specific attention to the subject of rural women.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

43. In response to concern regarding the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC made a few comments regarding the limited incorporation of the gender perspective in its resolutions. She also referred to the challenges posed by the incorporation of the gender perspective into fiscal policy, in addition to the definition of public budgets.

D. AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

44. At their twenty-second inter-agency meeting, the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations agreed to:

1. *Coordinate* activities in the preparatory process leading up to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Montevideo in October 2016;
2. *Promote* the development of an online tool for sharing information among the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations on the calendar of meetings, seminars, conferences and consultations, including agendas, programmes, presentations and lists of participants, with a view to facilitating coordination in the preparatory process for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
3. *Undertake* the efforts required to conduct studies and research that feed into the debate on gender equality and development in the lead-up to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference;
4. *Support* the participation of delegations from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and civil society in the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
5. *Contribute* to the organization of and participate in side events at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
6. *Reaffirm* the commitment to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and contribute to the process of redesigning and renewing this tool and to its dissemination;
7. *Ensure* greater synergy at the inter-agency level for the mainstreaming of gender equality in the implementation of the post-2015 development gender and the sustainable development goals;
8. *Coordinate* their activities within the framework of the United Nations Secretary General's campaign "Unite to End Violence against Women";
9. *Support* the inter-agency initiative of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean to raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and eliminate exceptions to the law;

10. *Promote* the use of inclusive language in the written and multimedia output of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations;
11. *Strengthen* the work of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations with civil society organizations;
12. *Promote* the organization, in the framework of the meetings of specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of online discussion forums and on-site workshops to address substantive topics that are of common interest, such as gender indicators and gender mainstreaming within organizations;
13. *Reaffirm* the work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the leadership of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to gender indicators and statistics, and make progress on the sustainable development goal indicators proposed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
14. *Coordinate* the inter-agency work on gender indicators and statistics with a view to making better use of sources, agricultural censuses and administrative records and harmonizing the separate systems of indicators promoted by agencies in different areas and combining them on the website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, thus avoiding duplication in the systems of indicators of the funds, programmes and other international organizations;
15. *Promote* the creation of an inter-agency working group on sustainable development goal indicators in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.

Annex

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
Bodies of the United Nations****Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)**

- Luiza Carvalho, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe, email: luiza.carvalho@unwomen.org
- Miosotis Rivas Peña, Oficial Nacional de Programa, República Dominicana, email: miosotis.rivas@unwomen.org
- Clemencia Muñoz–Tamayo, Representante, República Dominicana, email: clemencia.munoz-tamayo@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- Sayo Aoki, Representante Adjunta en la República Dominicana, email: saoki@unicef.org
- Luz Ángela Melo, Asesora Regional de Género, Panamá, email: lmelo@unicef.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Leonor Calderón, Representante del UNFPA en México y Directora de País para Cuba y la República Dominicana, email: svasquez@unfpa.org, lcalderon@unfpa.org
- Sonia Vásquez, Representante Auxiliar en la República Dominicana, email: svasquez@unfpa.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Begoña Gómez del Campo, Jefa, Oficina Regional de Programas en Panamá, email: begona.gomez@unodc.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Eugenia Piza López, Coordinadora Regional para el Área de Género de América Latina y el Caribe, email: Eugenia.piza-lopez@undp.org
- Raissa Crespo, Oficial de Género, República Dominicana, raissa.crespo@undp.org

**B. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- María José Chamorro, Especialista en temas de Género del ETD, Costa Rica, email: chamorro@ilo.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/
United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

- Lidia María Arthur Brito, Directora Regional, email: l.brito@unesco.org
- Yulissa Ureña, Oficial en República Dominicana, email: j.urena@unesco.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- Claudia Brito, Oficial de Género, email: Claudia.Brito@fao.org

**C. Organizaciones intergubernamentales
Intergovernmental organizations**

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Andrew Morrison, Jefe de la División de Género y Diversidad, email: amorrison@iadb.org

Fundación Unión Europea-Latinoamérica y el Caribe (Fundación EU-LAC)/EU-LAC Foundation

- Jorge Valdés, Director Ejecutivo, email: jvaldez@eulacfoundation.org
- Erika Guzmán, Coordinadora Programa “Conecta”, email: eguzman@eulacfoundation.org

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

- Carmen Moreno, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres, email: cmoreno@oas.org

**D. Secretaría
Secretariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- María Nieves Rico, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs, e-mail: nieves.rico@cepal.org
- Jimena Arias Feijoó, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Social Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, e-mail: jimena.arias@cepal.org
- Pamela Villalobos, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, e-mail: pamelavillalobos@cepal.org
- Alejandra Valdés, Coordinadora, Observatorio de Igualdad de Género, División de Asuntos de Género, Coordinator, Gender Equality Observatory, Division for Gender Affairs, e-mail: alejandra.valdes@cepal.org