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

Santiago, 26-28 January 2016

AGREEMENTS

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

1. *Acknowledge* the efforts made by countries to place gender equality at the centre of the discussion and design process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their commitment to a strong and sustained approach to its follow-up and review;
2. *Also acknowledge* the links between gender equality and climate change, notably the vulnerability of indigenous, Afro-descendent and rural women, and those from small island developing States;
3. *Reaffirm* the importance of producing information for the monitoring and follow-up of progress and the planning of public policies on gender, particularly for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting and supporting the guiding role and technical capacity of machineries for the advancement of women in that process;
4. *Promote* the participation of civil society, especially women's and feminist movements, in advancing a regional agenda focused on gender equality and sustainable development, as well as in following up on its implementation, while recognizing the importance of this participation;
5. *Thank* the secretariat for the report on the activities conducted since the fifty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
6. *Welcome* the report by the representative of Uruguay on the preparations for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Uruguay from 25 to 28 October 2016;

7. *Ensure* the participation in the Conference of all stakeholders involved in topics relating to its work, and especially of high-level government representatives;
8. *Promote* the participation of civil society, particularly women's and feminist movements, in the Conference and in related activities;
9. *Adopt* the road map presented by the secretariat for the preparatory process of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and participate actively in the three subregional meetings that will be held during May and June 2016 at the subregional headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico and Port of Spain and at the headquarters of the Commission in Santiago, respectively;
10. *Welcome* the proposal by the secretariat to design a strategy for the implementation of commitments already made by governments in previous regional consensuses, and request that it formulate this strategy in keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that it may serve as the basis for each country to carry out its own assessment, identify priorities and formulate specific public policies;
11. *Approve* the annotated index of the position paper for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, presented at the fifty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers, including its structure, content and proposals, and request the secretariat to incorporate the comments and contributions made by the countries, in relation to the interdependence of the economic, physical and decision-making autonomy of women and the transformative capacity of the gender perspective and human rights in public policies;
12. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support the countries of the region in following up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals through the identification of priority issues for gender equality in accordance with the regional reality, as well as in achieving the targets and selecting indicators and appropriate methodologies for follow-up;
13. *Highlight* the importance of working on the priority issues associated with gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the other subsidiary bodies of the Commission such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;
14. *Request* that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women submit a proposal to the Economic and Social Council to commence the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the third week of March, as of 2017, to structure sessions to be conducive to more participatory, wide-ranging and interactive discussions with more time for statements, and to ensure that resolutions reflect countries' contributions and the gender agenda agreed upon in the region;
15. *Deepen* inter-agency work and co-management practices in the implementation of public policies on gender equality, strengthening machineries for the advancement of women and processes to mainstream the gender perspective in public administration, from planning through to evaluation, and earmarking sufficient budget funding throughout the public policy cycle;

16. *Work* on the design of public policies that address the structural roots of inequality between men and women, particularly those cultural aspects that perpetuate traditional gender roles;
17. *Request* States to define strategies to ensure that governments of the region prioritize the incorporation of gender equality into their national and sectoral development plans as a means of more quickly achieving a truly inclusive rule of law, together with the eradication of poverty, exclusion and social inequality, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
18. *Reaffirm* agreements 11 and 12 adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at their fifty-first meeting, held in Santiago from 17 to 19 November 2014, and create a working group consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay to examine the viability and modes of operation of a regional fund for gender equality and intercultural dialogue;
19. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference, to provide technical assistance in preparing a road map to address the different aspects relating to the viability and operation of the regional fund;
20. *Welcome* the declaration of the machineries for the advancement of women resulting from the special regional consultation in preparation for the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the framework of the fifty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
21. *Present* the declaration of the machineries for the advancement of women resulting from the special regional consultation and the agreements of the fifty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in New York in March 2016;
22. *Welcome* the invitation for the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to report on the work done during the past biennium, including the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers at their fifty-third meeting, at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico City in May 2016.