

Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios

Annotated index of the position document of the
XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean



Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 22–23 January 2019

Background

Agreement 13 of the 56^a Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the RCW (2017)

“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”

57^a Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the (2018)

Adopted the road map for the preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean which proposes the presentation of the annotated index of the position document during the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.



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Structure of the annotated index

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GENDER (IN)EQUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- A. Progress in gender equality and women's autonomy in the region
- B. Structural obstacles of gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean
- C. Advancing towards gender equality at different speeds

II

CHANGING ECONOMIC SCENARIOS

- A. Global and regional context
- B. Economic and financial globalization
- C. The digital revolution
- D. Demographic change
- E. Climate change

III

COMPREHENSIVE POLICY GUIDELINES FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AUTONOMY IN CHANGING ECONOMIC SCENARIOS

- A. Multidimensional public policies
- B. Multilateral governance and an enabling international environment to achieve gender equality



UNITED NATIONS



Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
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in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 22–23 January 2019

I. Gender (in)equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

A. Progress in gender equality and women's autonomy in the region

Significant advances in regulatory frameworks, including the abrogation of most of the region's explicitly discriminatory laws; the institutionalization of mechanisms for the advancement of women and the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies in various sectors and levels of State.

Autonomy in decision-making

- Electoral system reforms, principle of parity and affirmative action policies:
 - increase of the average percentage of women in the region's parliaments from 22% to 30% between 2008 and 2018

Physical Autonomy

- Strengthening of public institutions responsible for the administration of justice and to provide responses based on a human rights approach and promoting a culture of non-violence:
 - 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted laws or criminal code reforms which codify the murder of women as femicide or femicide.
 - 13 countries currently have comprehensive violence laws.

Economic Autonomy

- reduction of the number of women with no income of their own (41,7% in 2002 to 29,4% in 2017).
- there has been a trend towards a narrowing of the gender wage gap, which went from 28.2% in 1990 to 16.1% in 2014

Strengthening information systems with a gender perspective

- The production of statistical data with a gender perspective to inform the design and evaluation of public policy in the three dimensions of sustainable development :
 - 19 countries in the region have already measured time use

Source: Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2018

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I. Gender (in)equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

B. Structural obstacles of gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mutually reinforcing bottlenecks limit the scope of public policy

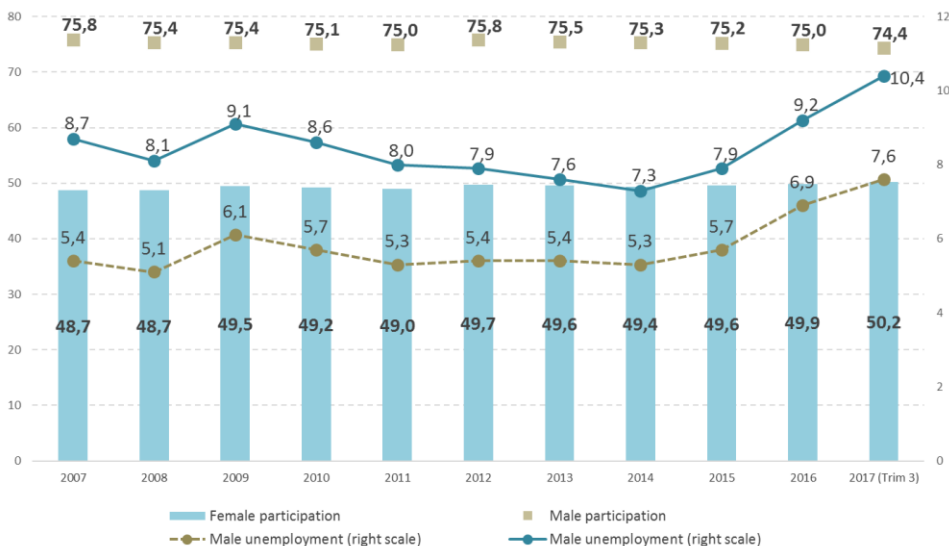


Socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the framework of exclusionary growth

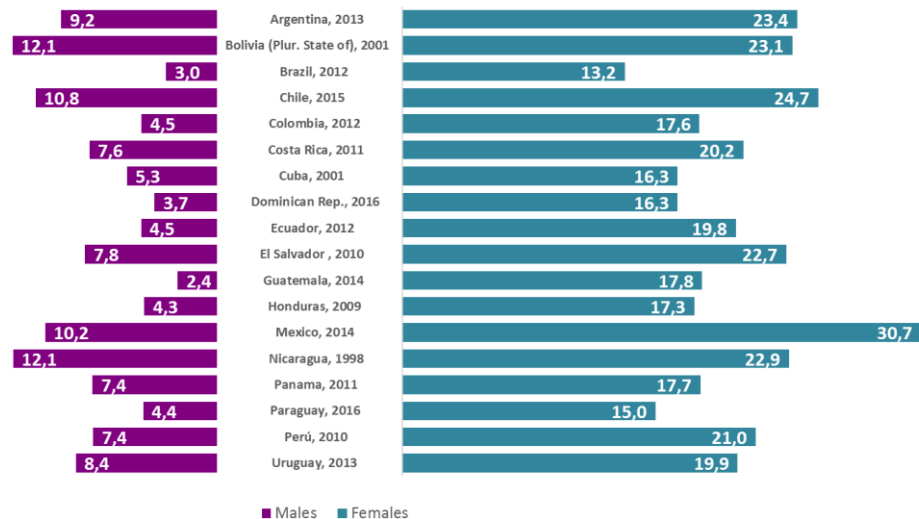


The sexual division of labour and unjust social organization of care

Latin America and the Caribbean (weighted average for 24 countries): activity and employment rates, by sex, 2007–2017
(en porcentajes)



Latin America (18 countries): proportion for time spent on unpaid domestic care work (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1) by sex
(Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of "2017 Labour Overview of Latin America and the Caribbean", Lima, ILO, 2017.

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018

I. Gender (in)equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

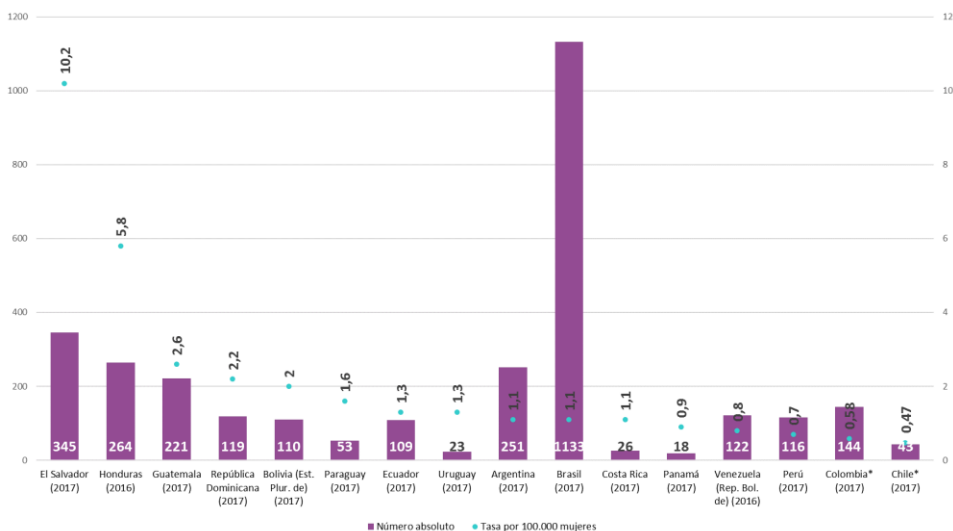
B. Structural obstacles of gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mutually reinforcing bottlenecks limit the scope of public policy



Discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege

Latin America (16 countries): Femicides, last year with available information
(In absolute numbers and rates per 100.000 women)

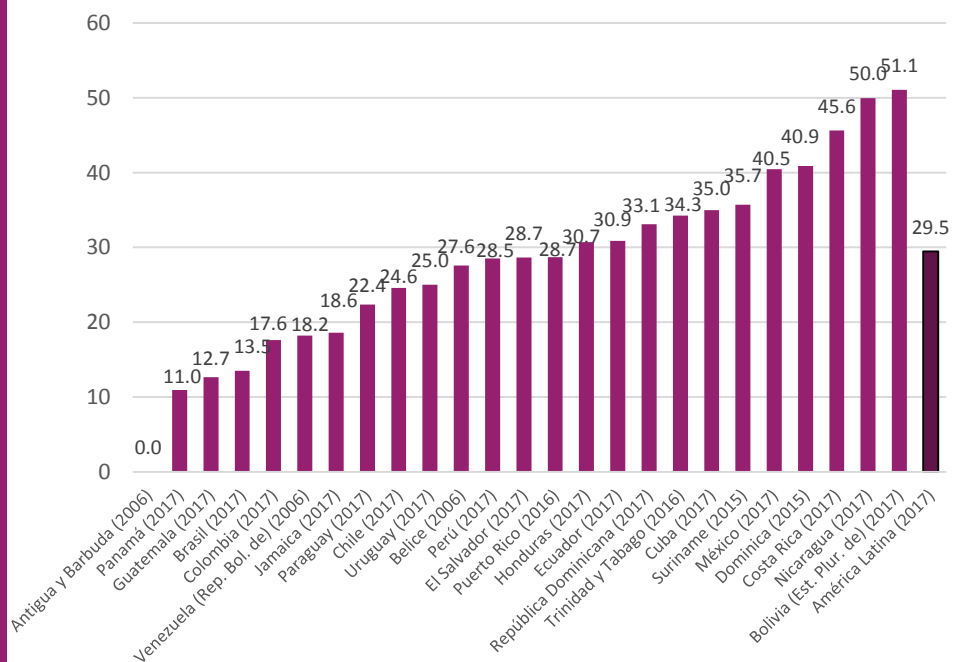


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019



Concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere

América Latina y el Caribe (25 países): City councilors who are women, latest available data (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019

I. Gender (in)equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

C. Advancing towards gender equality at different speeds

- Progress in the region has been uneven (in terms economic and political matters, normative advances, vulnerability to climatic effects, among others), with national characteristics often resulting in differences of pace.
- Differences are also observed within countries, as some groups of women face multiple forms of discrimination that overlap and are mutually reinforcing.

How these structural challenges intersect with and reinforce one another, perpetuating inequality and a lack of autonomy, and how they reduce the scope of gender equality policies in the region are going to be addressed

II. CHANGING ECONOMIC SCENARIOS

A. Changing economic scenarios

- ■ Growing global interdependence
- ■ The rapid progress of digital technologies in several countries
- ■ Wage stagnation at the global level
- ■ Deepening the financialization of economies
- Slowing growth
- The increase in inequality in several countries
- The polarization of the benefits of globalization

B. Economic And Financial Globalization

• Trade and investment promotion policies affect gender equality because they have a bearing on labour market conditions, the relative prices of goods, government revenues, access to key public services and the policy space available for regulation in support of women's rights. In this regard, this section will analyse some of the gender implications of trade and financial policies and agreements, among others.

C. The digital revolution

- Technological changes present both opportunities and challenges for the closing of existing gaps and recently created ones.
- ■ Generation of intelligent products and services
- ■ Handling large volume of data
- ■ Effects of automation on sectors with a high presence of women
- ■ The new types of work is weakening labour relations

D. Demographic change

- ■ Lower fertility and population ageing are the main characteristics of the region's demographic transformation
- ■ One of the major challenges for 2030 is to include care in comprehensive public policies that are founded on the principles of solidarity, equality and non-discrimination.

E. Climate change

- Differential impact of the effects of climate change in relation to gender, with special emphasis on the Caribbean countries.

III. Comprehensive policy guidelines for gender equality and women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios

The policy recommendations will include some of the approaches that guide public policies that have been adopted in the Montevideo Strategy: (i) gender equality; (ii) women's human rights; (iii) intersectionality and interculturality; (iv) parity-based, representative and participatory democracy, and secularism; and (v) sustainable and inclusive development.

A. Multidimensional public policies

- The focus will be on the design of policies aimed at guaranteeing women's rights in the light of changes in the macroeconomic environment, the volatility of trade and financial flows, the digital revolution, demographic transformations and climate change.
- It will analyse the importance of strengthening the role of States' mechanisms for the advancement of women.
- It will present policy guidelines for moving towards greater labour participation by women in sectors that are key to structural change and towards more equitable redistribution of care.
- The importance of having information systems that bring to light the complexity of gender inequalities in view of ongoing transformations will also be addressed.

B. Multilateral governance and an enabling international environment to achieve gender equality

- Since the different trends analysed in the document are transnational in nature, in this section the focus will be on regional and international policies and governance, which are indispensable if the aforementioned trends are to be addressed.
- In the context of the challenges that globalization poses to gender equality, this section will emphasize the need for coherence between trade, financial and investment policies and women's rights.
- It will explore the asymmetrical dynamics of development and the spread of technological progress, Internet governance, the regulation of data use and the prevention of new forms of violence against women and girls, among others

