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**REPORT OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 19-20 May 2014

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their fiftieth meeting on 19 and 20 May 2014 in Santiago.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries serving as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru (by videoconference) and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Colombia, Ecuador, France, Guatemala and Spain.

4. The meeting was also 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) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

5. Also attending were representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

6. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) y International Organization for Migration (IOM).

7. Also present at the meeting were representatives of non-governmental organizations and other guests.

¹ See annex 1.

Chair and Vice-Chairs

8. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women was as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Dominican Republic
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Brazil
	Chile
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	El Salvador
	Jamaica
	Mexico
	Panama
	Paraguay
	Peru
	Puerto Rico
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Suriname
	Uruguay.

B. AGENDA

9. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report by the secretariat on the activities conducted since the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Report on the outcome of the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission and on the participation by the region in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations and the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
4. Strategy of the Presiding Officers for the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus, including monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda.
5. Presentation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Presentation of the outcome of the project “Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America”.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS

Opening

10. The Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean stated that the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean reflected the strength of the women’s movement and their contribution to the advancement of the region, which had manifested itself in many spheres. Referring to the achievements of recent decades, he said that gender institutions had helped to mainstream the agenda for the empowerment of women in public policy and to dispense with the cultural patterns that supported inequality. The regional consensus adopted by the Conference should form part of the discussions of the Commission on the Status of Women and thus be incorporated into the global development agenda. On behalf of ECLAC, he pledged continued support for the work of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and the gender mainstreaming initiatives undertaken by the Governments of the region.

11. The Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers were crucial for strengthening gender equality in the region. The Santo Domingo Consensus, the outcome of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in 2013, endorsed agreements reached over the preceding 20 years and was the most concrete, comprehensive and accurate expression of the true situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to serving as guidelines for the pursuit of equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, this Consensus could be put forward as a frame of reference at a time of transition for international agendas. She maintained that a strategy for the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus should be adopted with a view to examining the outcome of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women at the twentieth anniversary of the latter (Beijing+20) and with a view to monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and with the perspective of the construction of a post-2015 development agenda.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

12. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the participants, who adopted it without amendment.

Report by the secretariat on the activities conducted since the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

13. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs reported on the activities carried out within the region since the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in 2013. She said that the gender agenda had evolved and that

currently encompassed economic and sustainable development issues as well. The document *Women in the Digital Economy: Breaking through the Equality Threshold*², presented in the Dominican Republic, would be published as a book and would incorporate new inputs from the countries in a fuller and more substantial manner. New indicators had been designed and the 2013-2014 report of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean addressed the issue of violence against women. The construction of the simple indicator relating to the number of women holding positions in the central banks had been completed. She added that in the past five years, the Observatory had maintained its human resources but had suffered financial cuts.

14. In conjunction with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Division continued to work to provide training to the machineries for the advancement of women and the statistical institutes. As regards the Beijing+20 process, she said they were working jointly with UN-Women, and took the opportunity to thank those countries that had sent in reports. She recognized that countries had to take pains to respond to many reports on related issues, which varied in format only. In connection with the most relevant document, the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there was a methodological challenge that needed to be resolved.

15. She then read out a letter from the Women's Advocate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, who had been unable to attend the meeting, as the intention was to do away with the Office of the Women's Advocate of Puerto Rico and incorporate it into the area of the family (see annex 2).

16. In that connection, the representative of Brazil said that some countries were contemplating eliminating the machineries for the advancement of women as a means of downsizing the State. The representatives of Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Ecuador then took the floor to support the motion that the Presiding Officers should adopt a decision relating to the situation in Puerto Rico.

Report on the outcome of the forty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission and on the participation by the region in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations and the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (agenda item 3)

17. The representative of Mexico presented a summary of the proceedings of the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, at which the outcome of the global review of gender statistics had been disseminated and examined, especially in relation to violence against women. She said that a set of 52 quantitative and 11 qualitative indicators had been established. The Commission had approved the programme of work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, which worked on the review of the United Nations International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS), whose progress would be presented in 2015 and whose findings would be applied in all countries once they had been approved. In 2014, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) would be hosting the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics, a forum which reviewed the advances, addressed the challenges and identified the emerging issues in that area. Lastly, she reported on the advances made with the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative (EDGE), implemented since 2012 by the United Nations Statistics Division and UN-Women.

18. The representative of the Dominican Republic reported on the participation by the region in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which the priority theme was

² LC/L.3666(CRM.12/3).

“Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”, the review theme “Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work” and the emerging issue “Women’s access to productive resources”.

19. In presenting the Santo Domingo Consensus in her capacity as Pro Tempore Chair of Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMMCA), she had reaffirmed the commitments contained therein and had reported on the region’s achievements and the numerous challenges it faced in its efforts to attain gender equality and equity. She had also drawn attention to the need for more resources in critical areas, with a view to driving forward the funding of regional plans, programmes and actions designed to further gender equality and equity in the countries of the region.

20. The agreed conclusions “Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”, had been supported by all Member States. In addition, four resolutions had been adopted: (a) Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (b) Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters; (c) Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (presented by Malawi) and (d) Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women.

21. The representative of Uruguay presented a summary of the proceedings of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations. She discussed the efforts made by her country since September 2013 to produce an agreed draft resolution, which might serve as the basis for negotiations with all the Member States of the United Nations. In spite of the consultations held, no consensus was reached as the group of Arab and African countries, headed by Egypt and Cameroun, had expressed their opposition to the idea of having a pre-negotiated document.

22. The agreements had been negotiated and agreed by four of the five regional groups, but, on the issue of sexual and reproductive rights, it was rejected by, or failed to receive the approval of, the African countries. The adopted text achieved a delicate balance between the development and human rights approaches and referred to migrants, Afro-descendants, adolescents and youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, HIV, sexual and reproductive health, extension of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and its links with the post-2015 goals; indeed, it included references to practically all the issues addressed in the Cairo Programme of Action as can be seen in the outcome document. She said that this consensus was crucial for the region, since sexual and reproductive rights were recognized as a prerequisite for sustainable development. She emphasized that a common position for Latin America and the Caribbean and other countries that supported the Cairo Programme of Action and had fulfilled the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development could play a structuralizing role.

23. The representative of Peru reported on the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. She said that it had been preceded by a national seminar entitled “The post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals in Peru”. In that framework, the panel “Integration of women in the production, labour and economic spheres” was held with representatives from different ministries. This panel had helped to track gender mainstreaming in public policy and had addressed the issue of the economic autonomy of women.

24. One of the most forceful messages of the meeting had been that gender was no longer a separate category but cut across all economic and social development policies in the region, hence the relevance of the Santo Domingo Consensus. The position paper prepared by ECLAC, *Compacts for Equality: Towards*

*a Sustainable Future*³—the third component of the equality trilogy—, presented compacts as necessary tools for shaping the broad agreements required by the societies in the region to support the transformations they were undergoing. In that respect, the gender perspective was clearly a cross-cutting area, since issues such as violence, workload and sexual and reproductive rights were addressed. She pointed out also that in their interventions the delegations present had mentioned gender equality and the autonomy of women as central elements of development, poverty alleviation and equality.

25. Lastly, with reference to the adoption of the resolutions at the end of the meeting, she highlighted the endorsement of the Santo Domingo Consensus, the recognition of the crucial importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda and the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It had been proposed that the Conference on Women should participate in that Conference in order to ensure that the gender perspective was effectively mainstreamed in all social programmes in the countries of the region.

26. The representatives of the following countries took the floor: Spain, Brazil, France, Paraguay, Panama, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. The UNFPA representative also made a statement.

27. The representative of Brazil said that there was a disparity between the quality of the documents adopted in the region and that of the document adopted at the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She was pleased with the quality of the agreements adopted in Montevideo and Santo Domingo, but expressed concern at their not being properly incorporated into the wider United Nations system. She said that the regional documents must have greater force and that 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, the documents of the Commission on the Status of Women still did not recognize the existence, for example, of different types of family.

28. The representative of Mexico supported her colleague from Brazil, sharing her concern that regional efforts should have a greater impact at the international level and maintaining that it was necessary to collaborate with the bodies that were working on the issue of the sustainable development goals. She said that the challenge was to support ECLAC and the entities of the system to ensure that the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean was heard.

Strategy of the Presiding Officers for the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus, including monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda (agenda item 4)

29. The Chair of the Presiding Officers presented a strategy for the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus, including monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the adoption of a post-2015 development agenda. She said that the objective was to establish the Santo Domingo Consensus as the fundamental instrument for the coordination and implementation of the gender equality agenda in the region and that the specific goals were as follows: to disseminate the contents of the Santo Domingo Consensus among the stakeholders and decision-makers, the representatives of international cooperation, civil society, the communications media and society as a whole in the region, with a view to its positioning and effective application; to build strategic alliances with a view to obtaining the financial and technical resources required for implementation of the Consensus in the countries of the region, and to succeed in positioning the machineries for the advancement of women as interlocutors in regional and subregional agendas.

³ LC/G.2586(SES.35/3).

30. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shared her proposed work plan for the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus, explaining the overall goal and specific goals and taking into account the sovereign right of each country to apply its recommendations in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in keeping with universally agreed international human rights. She urged participants to bear in mind that the deadlines for fulfilment of the main international agendas that had contributed to promoting the advancement of women, including the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994 and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women de 1995, were fast approaching.

31. Representatives of the following countries then took the floor: Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. The secretariat representative also spoke. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the consensus did not result in a plan of action; hence the value of the proposal presented by the Chair of the Presiding Officers, who had proposed a strategy for moving forward with emphasis on implementation. It was agreed that countries should have a month within which to present to the secretariat their inputs on the initiative proposed by the Dominican Republic for a regional strategy whereby the Santo Domingo Consensus would be a fundamental instrument for the coordination and application of the gender equality agenda in the region.

32. Referring to the impact of the post-2015 development agenda, the representative of Chile said that the proposal presented was a strategy rather than a set of measures. In line with gender mainstreaming, she supported the idea that there should be greater synergy between the Santo Domingo Consensus and the Montevideo Consensus, and proposed that consideration should be given to the possibility of holding joint meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women and the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in order to increase their impact.

Presentation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 5)

33. Two representatives of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC discussed the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. First, the Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division gave a brief introduction on the work being conducted by the Division and the agenda of the sustainable development goals. He stated that rights of access were increasingly being recognized as a central element for achieving environmental protection and sustainable development and that access to information was closely linked to access to the Internet, which remained highly uneven within the region. He added that production processes could cause water, air and soil pollution and that environmental degradation should be counted among the costs of economic reproduction; indeed, environmental degradation had a more serious impact on the most vulnerable, persons discriminated against because of their ethnicity, lower-income persons and women, since increased morbidity meant that women were forced to spend more time looking after the sick.

34. Second, the Environmental Affairs Officer pointed out that to date 18 countries of the region had signed the Declaration and steps were being taken to promote the creation of a regional instrument for the full application of the rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Presentation of the outcome of the project “Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America” (agenda item 6)

35. The Seminar “Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs” was held to present the findings obtained in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Peru from the project “Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America”, implemented with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

36. The first panel was moderated by Sonia Montaña, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC. The panellists were Mario Castillo, Chief of the Innovation and New Technologies Unit of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC; Ana Ferigra-Stefanovic, Associate Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, and Marcela Huaita, Vice-Minister for Women’s Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru.

37. The Chief of the Innovation and New Technologies Unit of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC delivered a presentation entitled “Innovation productive development and equality”. He analysed the contribution to economic growth of investment in knowledge technologies and stated that the challenge for Latin America and the Caribbean was to join in the transformation taking place in both the manufacturing and the services sector. He concluded by saying that there was room to strengthen social inclusion and called for the creation of pilot programmes for women.

38. The Associate Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC presented the lessons learned through implementation of the political impact project, which had included four phases: evaluation, highlighting, identifying, and establishing and strengthening. She said that, thanks to the project, they had managed to generate leadership by new actors, a technical dialogue had been launched and national agreements had been adopted at the highest level of government, as in the case of Costa Rica, where a presidential decree had been signed.

39. The Vice-Minister for Women’s Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru spoke of her country’s participation in the project and presented the most important milestones, such as the broad participation by ministries and civil society, all representatives of the production sector. She listed the short- and medium-term goals that had been outlined as well as the preparation of an assessment and the adoption and signing of a national strategy/plan to promote the empowerment and economic autonomy of women in Peru.

40. The second panel was moderated by Alejandrina Germán, Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic; the panellists were Javiera Blanco, Minister of Labour and Social Security of Chile; Gladys Vallester, Secretary-General of the National Institute of Women of Panama; Noelia De León, board member of the Chamber of Industry and Chair of the Forum of Business and Professional Women of Costa Rica, y Claudia Pascual, Minister and Director of the National Women's Service of Chile.

41. The Minister of Labour and Social Security of Chile described the principal measures contemplated under the government programme to improve the integration of women in the workforce. She affirmed the need to improve skills training through multidimensional support and at the same time to strengthen existing measures such as implementation of article 203 of the Labour Code, which stated that the employer must provide an infant day-care centre. She mentioned actions such as affirmative action policies for hiring women and strengthening of collective rights through publicly financed unions. Lastly,

she announced that a tripartite board on women and labour was being convened, which would consist of the Confederation of Production and Commerce (CPC) and the Workers' Union (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)) with the Ministry of Finance, the National Women's Service and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as public-sector representatives.

42. The Secretary-General of the National Institute of Women of Panama presented the main components, outcomes and lessons learned of the technical and political dialogue, which had culminated in the adoption in April 2014 of the National Agreement for Promotion of Productive Development through the Economic Autonomy of Women. She said that that dialogue had permitted the participating institutions to appropriate and take ownership of the issue, which marked the start of a process of institutional changes in favour of the economic autonomy of women. One of the results stressed was the formation of the Network of Government Machineries, whose purpose was to achieve a better programme coordination. She pointed out further that while the project was being implemented, the Public Policy on Equal Opportunities for Women had been advanced as a government management instrument for fostering the autonomy of Panamanian women.

43. The board member of the Chamber of Industry and Chair of the Forum of Business and Professional Women of Costa Rica gave a presentation on the opportunities and challenges relating to the economic autonomy of businesswomen which had been identified during the implementation of the project "Promoting productive development and the economic autonomy of women in Costa Rica". She drew attention to the work of the Inter-Agency and Inter-sectoral Support Network of 30 public-private organizations, through which an intervention strategy had been organized and 40 production initiatives had been launched in order to implement, validate and strengthen the respective strategic approach. She mentioned the presidential decree which had been signed and the memoranda of understanding, recalling that those achievements were important but not sufficient to ensure the sustainability of the efforts.

44. The Minister and Director of the National Women's Service of Chile (SERNAM) discussed the new outlook for policies on the economic autonomy of women. As part of the government programme, she mentioned the bill presented by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality and the reinstatement of the Council of Ministers for Equal Opportunities, as well as the electoral bill which established quotas for women's participation. She said that SERNAM was concerned about the quality of training, recalling that progress was needed in terms of promoting decent work. She emphasized the importance of redistributing total work through a national care system and the reform of the system of infant day-care centres for the children of female workers.

45. The representative of Mexico then took the floor. She congratulated ECLAC on including the seminar in the meeting of the Presiding Officers, since it had presented the advances achieved towards substantive equality. Recalling that economic autonomy complemented political autonomy, she said that all parties in Mexico had adopted the principle of political parity and that the programme of the Government of Mexico planned to create 2 million jobs; caregiving was a major area for job creation. The machineries for the advancement of women had a crucial role to play as coordinators in order to avoid the duplication of efforts and affirmative actions should be adopted that committed all the ministries. The representative of Ecuador said that the panel had been instrumental in revealing the experience of the countries. The Government of Ecuador was engaged in strengthening the production matrix, which presented an opportunity to deepen rights. It was also creating the necessary conditions for overcoming underemployment and unemployment and was focusing on capacity-building. She added that the recent adoption of the National Gender Agenda, which included a job creation objective, had been a substantive contribution.

Other matters (agenda item 7)

46. The secretariat reminded the participants present that the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was scheduled to be held in Santiago from 18 to 20 November 2014.

47. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC mentioned the topics that would be addressed on that occasion: (a) a special session on Beijing +20, which would obviate the need to organize ad hoc events in the region and would allow the Presiding Officers to incorporate the item in the agenda of the next meeting in order to define on that occasion the position of Latin America and the Caribbean in the run-up to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; (b) the international seminar for presenting the study on time poverty and (c) presentation of the 2013-2014 report of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose table of contents had been included as an input for the current meeting. In relation to the last point, the countries were requested to send in their contributions.

48. There being no other matters, the meeting was declared closed.

D. AGREEMENTS

49. At their fiftieth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Make* the necessary efforts to ensure that the content of the Santo Domingo Consensus, adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, October 2013) and the content of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, August 2013), are included in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;
2. *Ask* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to update the Presiding Officers regularly on the agenda and work of each of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and, in consultation with the chairs of those subsidiary bodies, to consider the possibility of holding a joint meeting during the first half of 2015 between the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, with the aim of facilitating coordination and synergies between them;
3. *Ask* also the ECLAC secretariat to boost coordination between the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system to support gender mainstreaming in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;
4. *Foster* close coordination between organizations working to define the sustainable development goals and the national machineries for the advancement of women in order to ensure that the

gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout the process and is incorporated as a target in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;

5. *Strengthen* the production of official statistics with a gender perspective so that these can contribute to the development and implementation of the gender equality agenda, drawing simultaneously on information sources such as administration records, surveys and censuses; and urge the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to consider in its programme of work the proposal for a minimum set of gender indicators, as adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission during its forty-fifth session;
6. *Recognize* the efforts of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and promote the participation of producers and users of statistics in the fifteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, to be held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 5 to 7 November 2014, and in the Global Forum on Gender Statistics, which will take place in the same city from 3 to 5 November 2014;
7. *Recognize* also the efforts of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and provide support so that it is able to continue working on the production of gender statistics using the conceptual framework of physical, economic and decision-making autonomy;
8. *Promote* the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation among the countries of the region in the processes of assigning an economic value to unpaid work, using the classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean and calculating the satellite account on households' unpaid work;
9. *Ask* the region's countries to submit to the secretariat, within one month, proposals regarding the initiative put forward by the Dominican Republic for the development of a regional strategy to ensure that the Santo Domingo Consensus is a key instrument in coordinating and implementing the gender equality agenda in the region by: (a) publicizing the Santo Domingo Consensus among decision makers, international cooperation agencies, civil society, the media and society across the region, to raise its profile and implement it effectively; (b) developing strategic partnerships for obtaining financial and technical resources in order to implement the Consensus in the countries of the region; (c) strengthening the role of machineries for the advancement of women as stakeholders in regional and subregional agendas; and (d) participating in debates and negotiations so as to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals include the gender perspective;
10. *Reiterate*, in light of the weakening of some national machineries for the advancement of women, the importance of subparagraph 6 (xix) of the Mexico City Consensus, "Guarantee that national machineries for the advancement of women are provided with financial and human resources, build their political capacity and consolidate their institutional status at the highest possible level to ensure that they can fulfil their mandates efficiently and effectively", subparagraph 1 (i) of the Quito Consensus and subparagraph 3 (f) of the Brasilia Consensus;
11. *Reaffirm* the importance of strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women, providing them with financial and technical resources and conferring on them the highest possible status within the government structure;

12. *Express concern* over the possible closure of the Office of the Women's Advocate of Puerto Rico, a machinery for promoting and defending women's rights in that country, and request that the Chair of the Presiding Officers send a note to the authorities of Puerto Rico stressing that this course of action contravenes the Santo Domingo Consensus and other regional and international agreements signed by the countries;
13. *Condemn* the recent kidnapping of a group of girls in Nigeria, which is an example of the violence suffered by women, who are still treated as chattels in many parts of the world, and *join* international calls for their safety and immediate release;
14. *Strengthen* the work of the region's countries with regard to ongoing progress towards economic autonomy, equal rights and hunger reduction, in accordance with the Santiago Declaration adopted at the meeting "Women in the International Year of Family Farming", held in Santiago on 10 and 11 April 2014 as part of the support activities organized for the thirty-third FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Santiago from 6 to 9 May 2014;
15. Congratulate the Government of Ecuador on the adoption of the Organization Act on National Councils for Equality by its National Assembly;
16. *Congratulate* also the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama and Peru on the achievements with regard to the project "Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America" implemented by the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany;
17. *Ask* ECLAC to ensure that the Division for Gender Affairs, in coordination with other substantive divisions, continue to support the development of compacts on women's economic autonomy in countries that have already initiated this process, and to extend this support to any other countries that may request it;
18. *Congratulate* ECLAC on the inclusion in the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of the seminar "Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality jobs in Central America", which focused on women's economic autonomy but was also relevant to their physical autonomy and decision-making;
19. *Congratulate* also the Government of Chile on the public policies adopted to further the process of change in favour of gender equality, and recognize the valuable participation in this meeting of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare and the Minister and Director of the National Women's Service of Chile;
20. *Congratulate* in particular the delegation from the Dominican Republic, as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on its presentation at the thirty-fifth session of ECLAC and for its efforts to ensure that the member countries of the Commission reaffirmed the Santo Domingo Consensus at that meeting.

Annex 1

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States members of the Commission**

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- María Luisa Martino, Ministra, Dirección General de la Mujer, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: dijer@mrecic.gov.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Romina Iglesia, Secretaria, Embajada de la Argentina en Chile, email: iir@mrecic.gov.ar

BRASIL/BRAZIL

Representante/Representative:

- Sonia Malheiros Miguel, Asesora Especial, Secretaría de Políticas para las Mujeres, email: soniamm@spm.gov.br

CHILE

Representante/Representative:

- Claudia Pascual, Ministra, Directora, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM), email: cpascual@sernam.gob.cl

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- Javiera Blanco, Ministra del Trabajo y Previsión Social, email: jblanco@mintrab.gob.cl
- Vesna Madariaga, Jefa, Unidad Prevención Violencia contra la Mujer, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM), email: vmadariaga@sernam.gob.cl
- Carmen Torres, Asesora de la Subdirección del Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM)
- Aída Salinas, Jefa, Área Mujer y Trabajo, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM), email: asalinas@sernam.gob.cl
- Paula Agurto, Asesora Gabinete Ministra del Trabajo, Ministerio del Trabajo y Previsión Social, email: pagusto@mintrab.gob.cl
- Rodolfo Carrasco, Asesor, Ministerio del Trabajo y Previsión Social, email: rcarrasco@mintrab.gob.cl

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

- Liliana Fajardo Vallejo, Consejera, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: Liliana.fajardo@cancilleria.gov.co

CUBA

Representante/Representative:

- Adolfo Curbelo Castellanos, Embajador de Cuba en Chile, email: emcuchil@embacuba.cl

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- Nilo García, Consejero Económico y Comercial, Embajada de Cuba en Chile, email: oficome@embacuba.cl

ECUADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Yina Quintana, Presidenta, Comisión de Transición para la Definición de la Institucionalidad Pública que garantice la Igualdad entre Hombres y Mujeres, email: yquintana@comisiondetransicion.gob.ec

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- Miguel Egas, Tercer Secretario, Embajada del Ecuador en Chile, email: megas@cancilleria.gob.ec

ESPAÑA/SPAIN

Representante/Representative:

- Ana Durán, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de España en Chile, email: ana.duran@maec.es

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- Ana López Castelló, Coordinadora del Programa CEPAL – AECID, email: ana.lopez@cepal.org

FRANCIA/FRANCE

Representante/Representative:

- Caroline Joly, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Francia en Chile, email: caroline.joly@diplomatie.gouv.fr

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- Marion Giacobbi, Encargada de Cooperación Descentralizada, email: mario.giacobbi@diplomatie.gouv.fr

GUATEMALA

Representante/Representative:

- Rudy Gómez del Cid, Consejero, Embajada de Guatemala en Chile, email: rgomez@minex.gob.gt

MÉXICO/MEXICO

Representante/Representative:

- Marcela Eternod Aramburu, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES), email: mmeternod@inmujeres.gob.mx

PANAMÁ/PANAMA

Representante/Representative:

- Gladys Vallester, Secretaria General, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INMUJER), email: gladysvallester@yahoo.com

PARAGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Benefrida Espinoza, Directora de Cooperación, Ministerio de la Mujer, email: espinoza@mujer.gov.py

PERÚ/PERU

Representante/Representative:

- Marcela Huaita, Viceministra de la Mujer, Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables, email: mhuita@mimp.gob.pe (por videoconferencia)

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Alejandrina Germán, Ministra de la Mujer, email: agermanmejia@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Sonia Díaz, Viceministra de la Mujer, email: soniadiazperez@yahoo.com

URUGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Silvana Guerra, Presidenta de la Comisión de Género, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: Silvana.guerra@mrree.gub.uy

B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas United Nations bodies

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)

- Anna Coates, Directora Regional Adjunta para Américas y el Caribe, Panamá, email: anna.coates@unwomen.org

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

- Hai Kung Jun, Representante en Chile, email: hkjun@unicef.org

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

- Leonor Calderón, Representante para México, Directora para la República Dominicana y Cuba, email: lcalderon@unfpa.org

C. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

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

- Soledad Parada, Coordinadora Regional de Género para América Latina y el Caribe, email: soledad.parada@fao.org
- Katherine Rodríguez, Consultora en Género , email: Karen.rodriguez@fao.org

Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- Roberto del Águila, Representante a.i en Chile: email: delaguro@paho.org
- Javier Uribe, Consultor en Sistemas y Servicios de Salud, email: uribejav@paho.org

D. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations

Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA)-Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos/Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement

- Hilda Johana Guerrero, Responsable de los Temas Sociales, email: johanaguerrero.alba@gmail.com

CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina/CAF-Development Bank of Latin America

- Corina Arroyo, Directora Administración de Fondos Especiales, email: carroyo@caf.com

Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB)

- Beatriz Morán Márquez, Directora, División de Asuntos Sociales, email: b Moran@segib.org

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Claudia Araya, Asistente de Proyectos y Administración, email: caraya@iom.int

E. Panelistas/Panellists

- Mario Castillo, Jefe de la Unidad de Innovación y Nuevas Tecnologías, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial, CEPAL, email: mario.castillo@cepal.org
- Ana Ferigra Stefanovic, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género, CEPAL, email: ana.ferigra-stefanovic@cepal.org
- Macela Huaita, Viceministra de la Mujer, Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables del Perú, email: mhuita@mimp.gob.pe
- Gladys Vallester, Secretaria General, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INMUJER), Panamá, email: gladysvallester@yahoo.com, coopinternacional@inamu.gob.pa
- Noelia De León, miembro de la Junta Directiva de la Cámara de Industrias y Presidenta del Foro de Mujeres Empresarias y Profesionales, Costa Rica, email: presidencia@foroempresariascr.com

- Claudia Pascual, Ministra Directora del Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM), Chile, email: cpascual@sernam.gob.cl
- Javiera Blanco, Ministra del Trabajo y Previsión Social de Chile: jblanco@mintrab.gob.cl

F. Otros participantes/Other participants

- Isabel Margarita Amor, Estudiante, Universidad Católica, email: imamor@uc.cl
- Racha Ammati, Embajada de Marruecos en Santiago, Practicante, email: ammati52@gmail.com
- Faiza Hajji, CEO & Founder, eBatuta, email: faiza@ebatuta.com

G. Secretaría/Secretariat

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

- Sonia Montaña, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs, email: sonia.montano@cepal.org
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, email: joseluis.samaniego@cepal.org
- Luis F. Yáñez, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Officer in Charge Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Pamela Villalobos, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, email: pamelavillalobos@cepal.org
- Mario Castillo, Jefe, Unidad de Innovación y Nuevas Tecnologías, División de Desarrollo Productivo/Chief, Innovation and New Technologies Unit, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, email: mario.castillo@cepal.org
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- Enrique Oviedo, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos/Secretaría de la Comisión/Political Affairs Officer/Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: enrique.oviedo@cepal.org
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- Ana Ferigra Stefanovic, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, email: ana.ferigra-stefanovic@cepal.org
- Varinia Tromben, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, email: varinia.tromben@cepal.org
- Iliana Vaca-Trigo, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, email: iliana.vaca-trigo@cepal.org
- Alejandra Valdés, Coordinadora del Observatorio de Igualdad de Género en América Latina y el Caribe/Coordinator, Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, Division for Gender Affairs, email: Alejandra.valdes@cepal.org

Annex 2

**LETTER FROM WANDA VÁZQUEZ GARCED, WOMEN'S ADVOCATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO**



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

Lcda. Wanda Vázquez Garced
Procuradora

16 May 2014

Ms. Sonia Montaña
Chief
Division for Gender Affairs
Casilla 179 D. Santiago, Chile

Dear Ms. Montaña

I take this opportunity to send you my most cordial greetings and to express my appreciation for the letter of support you sent on learning in the press of the possible merger or, even worse, of the elimination of the Office of the Women's Advocate of Puerto Rico. As you are aware, this Office is the only government agency that oversees policies for the promotion and advancement of women in our island. As the 2001 law itself recognizes, this Office was established following the persistent efforts and struggle of women's organizations and feminist groups in our island of Puerto Rico.

Today, time has played us a very cruel and regrettable turn: the elimination of this machinery, which over the years has facilitated the advancement of our struggles and the attainment of human rights for our women, which has been an example of avant-garde action on the international stage. They now even plan to merge it with the Department of the Family, which, historically, has tended to recast women as victims, manipulating and intimidating them by taking away their children without addressing the core problem: the pattern of domestic violence. To think that in the cold setting of an office, the persons planning this merger fail to recognize that the problems faced by women are not limited to the domestic sphere, that they extend to the economic, political and labour spheres, to just mention a few. The supreme irony is

that in explaining the reasons for the plan to do away with this Office, reference is made to major achievements brought about by women, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing. The reason given in writing is that this will protect it from the economic straits in which the Government finds itself. On the basis of the analysis that we have carried out and that we will present, our agency is economically sound and highly efficient as an advocate for women. But at times, a change of government brings undesired consequences.

As you will realize, I am fully committed at this time to defending our Office at all costs, all the more so since some feminist organizations are abandoning the struggle, yielding to government pressure and are not as supportive as we would have hoped. Be assured that I and the women I represent view with great pride and appreciation the opportunity we have had to collaborate with and learn from you in this noble and just struggle, while serving as one of the Vice-Chairs of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women of ECLAC. I therefore crave your indulgence and ask you to excuse my absence from the forthcoming meeting to be held on 19 and 20 May 2014 as I may have to make a statement during this week before the Legislative Assembly.

I should be grateful if it were possible for you to read out this letter to the Ministers at the meeting in the hope that they may be able to express their support and convey it to the Government of Puerto Rico. We need to protect our institutions for the advancement of the rights of women. As a member of the Presiding Officers, I appeal for your support.

Thanking you, I remain at your service and hope to have the opportunity to share with you at the next meeting,

*Yours sincerely,
Wanda Vázquez Garced
Women's Advocate
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