



**XIV Regional Conference  
on Women in**  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Santiago, 27–31 January 2020

Distr.  
LIMITED  
LC/CRM.14/7  
3 August 2020  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH  
20-00518

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**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 27–31 January 2020

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in compliance with ECLAC resolution 699(XXXVI), and was held in Santiago, from 27 to 31 January 2020.

### **Attendance<sup>1</sup>**

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay.

3. Representatives of the following Member States of the United Nations that are not member States of the Commission attended in a consultative capacity: Denmark, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden.

4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were Resident Coordinators of the United Nations system and representatives of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Chile, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations funds, programmes and bodies: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Food Programme (WFP).

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations also attended: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)–Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Bank.

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting: Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organization of American States (OAS), Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, ParlAmericas and the European Union.

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<sup>1</sup> See annex 6.

8. The meeting was attended by representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, other non-governmental organizations, universities, academic institutions, private sector entities, legislative bodies, and local governments.

### **Election of Presiding Officers**

9. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:

<u>Chair</u>	Chile
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Brazil
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Dominican Republic
	Ecuador
	El Salvador
	Grenada
	Haiti
	Jamaica
	Mexico
	Nicaragua
	Panama
	Paraguay
	Peru
	Plurinational State of Bolivia
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Suriname
	Uruguay

### **B. AGENDA**

10. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Presentation of the position document *Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios*.
4. High-level panel on the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030: the perspective of Latin America.
5. High-level panel on the Beijing Platform for Action and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and international and regional instruments on women's rights and gender equality: the perspective of the Caribbean.

6. Special session: Generation Equality: outlook and challenges for Beijing+25 in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. High-level seminar: Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios.
8. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
9. Other matters.

## **C. PROCEEDINGS<sup>2</sup>**

### **Opening session**

11. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Silvia Rucks, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Chile, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, Isabel Plá, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, and Carolina Valdivia, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

12. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the participants to the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She said that at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference held in Montevideo in 2016 the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda had converged with those of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 had been adopted. If progress was not made with implementation of the Montevideo Strategy, it would be difficult to overcome the structural obstacles of gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean. The situation had changed, and the region was at a difficult crossroads: a less favourable international context, with a significant economic slowdown that limited the room for the necessary social, economic and environmental policies. In addition, poverty was increasing, the reduction in inequality—a structural feature of the region, based on its production structure—was stalling, and the quality of employment was declining. It was clear that the economic model associated with concentration of wealth and environmental degradation was no longer sustainable. Discriminatory, conservative discourse was emerging that questioned the rights gained in terms of women's autonomy and gender equality. However, there was a growth in women's and feminist movements in the region that sought to bring an end to the precariousness in women's lives, and to the inequality and gender-based violence they faced. These movements had highlighted the prevalence of harassment and violence and challenged governments on human rights violations; their protests should not be criminalized, they should be listened to.

13. The Executive Secretary warned that, although progress had been made in recent years in women's participation in the labour force, the labour market participation rate among women in Latin America remained stalled at around 50% (compared with 74.4% for men), and the unemployment rate among women continued to be higher than among men. The overburden of unpaid work was one of the main obstacles to more stable participation by women in the labour market in better quality jobs, and also affected their access to social protection. Harassment and violence against women remained widespread, and despite the progress made, the countries of the region still lacked the resources and institutional frameworks needed to

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<sup>2</sup> The statements and presentations are available on the website of the Conference [online]: <https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/en>.

effectively prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based violence, a structural feature of the patriarchal system. To achieve equality, it was essential for women to have autonomy and be able to make free and informed decisions. She then invited the participants in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to take part with the conviction that it was more important than ever to ensure substantive equality and to move towards the horizon of gender equality, as an ethical necessity but also as a precondition for development. In conclusion, she said that equality was the horizon, structural change was the path and policymaking was the tool.

14. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) said that 2020 offered a historic opportunity to move towards fulfilling the commitments made to women and girls 25 years earlier in the Beijing Platform for Action. It was important to measure progress and gaps and to forge a forward agenda, a task in which men should also be involved. In that regard, the Beijing Platform for Action was the main point of reference, but much remained to be done to make commitments a reality; not enough progress had been made and there was not enough political will, to the extent that in some areas progress had stalled or reversed. It would take 200 years to close the gender gap in access to economic opportunities and women were 25% more likely than men to live in extreme poverty.

15. In 2019, she said, it had become clear that political instability was closely linked to inequality. There remained obstacles to women's access to decision-making spaces and there were increasing levels of violence against women, particularly against women human rights activists and defenders. The lack of funding for gender equality was a persistent challenge in the region. UN-Women, in collaboration with the Governments of France and Mexico and with participation by feminist movements and civil society, had convened the Generation Equality Forums. Through those forums, action would be taken in areas such as gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, technology and innovation for gender equality, and feminist movements and leadership. The aim of that work was to make the vision embodied in the Beijing Platform a reality.

16. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Chile said that 43 years had passed since the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America was held in Havana, and although progress had been made in the empowerment of women, not all the expected results had yet been achieved. The simple and powerful idea of leaving no one behind had to be kept in mind. There was a need for more granular analysis of data and to go beyond averages, which were useful but tended to hide the reality of inequality, which was at the root of social, political, economic and environmental crises. In Chile, for example, the gender pay gap remained considerable; there was also inequality among women: those in the first decile earned 13 times less than those in the highest income decile. The causes of those gaps were multidimensional and for public policies to be more effective, they needed to be supported by civil society and the private sector.

17. She said that 10 years remained before the deadline set for fulfilment of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the challenge was to move towards progressive structural change that would help to transform gender power relations in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It was crucial to address violations of women's human rights in Chile not only by providing necessary support, but also by promoting the transformations that were needed in civil and criminal law.

18. The Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay said that it had been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for the preceding three years. The Conference was an intergovernmental space that for 40 years had facilitated

dialogue between countries, in which social movements and the feminist movement played a fundamental role. Because Latin America and the Caribbean was the most unequal region in the world and very diverse, it was particularly important for equality to recognize women in all their diversity, including sexual diversity and diversity in race, language, ethnicity, age, region and class. In that regard, the Regional Gender Agenda should be enriched with different experiences and with analysis from organizations such as ECLAC. The Montevideo Strategy was an important political, strategic and technical document that recognized inequality as a structural characteristic. The establishment of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women was a significant achievement, because it was an invaluable tool for involving civil society and for governments to promote women's rights in the region. For gender equality to be a reality, gender policies had to be included in each line of work, to bring about definitive, transformative change in the region.

19. The Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile said that 2020 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and the fourth anniversary of adoption of the Montevideo Strategy. It was a key time to form synergies between countries, civil society, the private sector, the academic sector and international organizations to move forward with implementation of the Platform and the Strategy. Latin America and the Caribbean had shown its political commitment to gender equality: substantial progress had been made at the highest institutional level with women's ministries created in several countries of the region, and 18 countries had adopted policies to protect women. However, cultural barriers remained: many women still suffered physical and sexual violence, there were pay gaps, and women did most of the unpaid work. Women's decision-making was obstructed, and that was directly related to their vulnerability to violence, which was naturalized by society. The situation of migrant women was particularly worrying, and they needed to be protected by States.

20. She said that the Regional Gender Agenda was more important than ever, at a time when women were demanding inclusion in social dialogue. There was a need to anticipate the emerging challenges that would mark the coming years, such as climate change and economic changes that affected women differently. There was also a need to narrow the digital gender divide by focusing on education and supporting girls and young women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. In conclusion, the Minister expressed her commitment to making the right of women to participate fully in the life of society a reality.

21. The Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Chile expressed her concern about the direct effect of violence against women, as the figures for femicide remained alarming in the region. She said that gaps in labour market participation and political representation also persisted. According to the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*,<sup>3</sup> while progress had been made in some areas of development, women and girls remained the most disadvantaged, and globally 330 million of them were living in poverty. On the environmental front, a new version of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan had been adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25). Also, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals could help to close gaps through collaboration and partnership-building between various sectors of national society and between countries. Without women there could be no sustainable development.

22. She said that changing economic scenarios posed significant challenges for women in Latin America and the Caribbean, but also offered opportunities. In that regard, Chile had promoted a gender-responsive foreign policy and had been incorporating gender sections when negotiating trade agreements, particularly in

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, New York, 2019.

the European Union Association Agreement, and had launched the Women Export (Mujer Exporta) programme to promote women's inclusion in international trade. The country was committed to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and was leading the work on the Pacific Alliance road map for women's economic empowerment, 2020–2030. The 2019 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum had placed great emphasis on women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and inclusive growth, and had adopted the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth (2019–2030). In order to narrow the digital gender divide, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore had created the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA).

Presentation of the position document *Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios* (agenda item 3)

23. The Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean began her presentation of the position document *Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios* by saying that the document had been prepared in a context of global disruptions, interrelated crises and a decline in multilateralism, in which there was a pressing need to adopt a new pattern of development, centred around equality and sustainability. In Latin America and the Caribbean, these factors were compounded by a culture of privilege and inequality, one of whose many manifestations was gender inequality, which was at the root of the prevailing development pattern's unsustainability. The document was structured around four processes that particularly affected women: economic and financial globalization, the digital revolution, demographic change, and climate change. The document enquired into whether these processes contributed to overcoming or, conversely, amplifying the four structural challenges relating to gender inequality identified in the Montevideo Strategy: socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty in the framework of exclusionary growth; the sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care; discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere.

24. She said that efforts to reduce the level of poverty in countries that had not succeeded in reversing women's overrepresentation among the poor and had not been pursued in a gender-responsive manner. Discrimination based on ethnicity or race and the unfair social organization of care affected women in lower-income households to a greater extent. Moreover, the production specialization of the region's countries and occupational segregation by gender limited women's participation in quality jobs with a sizeable technological and knowledge component. The conditions for access to credit were much more adverse for women than for men. Regarding tax systems, there was a need to end to tax evasion and avoidance in order to use those resources to finance equality and social protection policies, as well as to apply deductions for care of dependants and exemptions for basic needs. It was particularly important to implement progressive policies that considered household structures and care structures as criteria for determining tax capacity, as was already being done in countries such as Cuba and Uruguay.

25. She then described the comprehensive policies that should be implemented to address women's autonomy in every sphere and to achieve greater equality. Investment was needed in systems of care that could generate multiplier effects in terms of women's labour participation and on the redistribution of time and income, and to close gender gaps in access to and use of financial services and prevent women's overindebtedness. In the area of the digital revolution, regional cooperation should be fostered for the discussion and design of rules on employment protection and taxation of platform enterprises, to strengthen regional governance in relation to technology, data use, knowledge sharing in key sectors, and the prevention of online gender-based violence, and to promote the inclusion of women in innovative sectors such as technology, energy and other emerging sectors. With regard to demographic change and the care economy, it was essential to recognize women's contribution to the economy through unpaid domestic and care work, to foster shared responsibility and fair distribution of the overall workload, to design



comprehensive social protection and care systems that adapted to demographic changes, and to guarantee the rights of migrant women. Furthermore, policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation had to be aligned with gender equality policies and conditions had to be guaranteed for the full participation of women in the design and monitoring of public policies on climate change and comprehensive disaster risk management, particularly in the Caribbean.

26. The Executive Secretary concluded by noting that progress on gender equality required renewed multilateralism to strengthen cooperation and correct asymmetries, to address globalization, the digital revolution, climate change and migration. It also needed the generation of data for the analysis of different dimensions of inequality and for prospective studies on global and regional trends that affected gender equality and women's autonomy.

27. Comments on the document were made by Epsy Campbell, Vice-President of Costa Rica, Nadine Gasman, President of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, and María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

28. The Vice-President of Costa Rica said that the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean offered an opportunity to take stock of the situation of women in the region, in order to achieve gender equality through the necessary agreements at the multilateral level. From the analysis in the position document, it could be concluded that more progress could have been made in that area if the culture of privilege had been addressed. Political representation and arrangements reached behind closed doors were insufficient and unsustainable in the long term and the problem of inequality needed to be addressed. Fiscal covenants with an inclusive perspective were needed to allocate resources to the most pressing areas and to cease the toleration of tax evasion or avoidance. Above all, it was essential to make closing gender gaps one of the priorities of development. She proposed a comprehensive agreement for the inclusion of women in production systems, between the State, international organizations and enterprises, in which the parties to the agreement would voluntarily assume targets on inclusion of women in the fastest-growing sectors, so as to avoid perpetuating job insecurity for women.

29. In order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5, the labour force participation rate for women had to reach 75%. An international agreement was needed on access to credit for women and affirmative action to overcome structural obstacles in that area. Regarding the care economy, States had a responsibility to meet demands with the public resources at their disposal, seeking more private resources and appealing to a collective responsibility, rather than a responsibility borne by women.

30. The President of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico thanked ECLAC for preparing the document entitled *Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios*, which provided a comprehensive overview of the situation of women in Latin America and revealed how they lived, what difficulties they faced and how these could be resolved, among other things. She said that, according to the analysis, there was a need to: (i) implement legislation already adopted and guarantee women's access to justice; (ii) strengthen women's autonomy to prevent their subordination and vulnerability; (iii) address the problem in an intergenerational and multidimensional way, as inequalities could last a lifetime; (iv) economically value the domestic and care work performed by women, which kept the world moving but was not recognized; (v) bring women into areas related to technology, robotization and automation, where skilled human capital and decision-making positions were predominantly occupied by men and; (vi) bring about economic system change based on gender equality and address the needs of migratory movements, to ensure that the repercussions of climate change were not felt more acutely by vulnerable women.

31. She added that women were suffering the consequences of a model designed without them, but they were still the main recipients of the model's negative effects. Women needed to be empowered to take on key decision-making positions, which would lead to the emergence of new approaches, the inclusion of other excluded groups and the redistribution of wealth. For that to be possible, intergenerational dialogue was needed, and it was up to States to innovate and safeguard democracy, making more institutions consider women's experiences. Lastly, the progress made in Mexico included development of the 2019–2024 National Programme for Equal Opportunities and Non-discrimination against Women (PROIGUALDAD), through a process of active listening with 5,000 women and 40 State entities.

32. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) said that women's participation was essential to overcome economic stagnation. Funding had to be secured and the number of female executive directors of companies in Latin America had to be increased; that would lead to a rise in productivity. Domestic resources could be raised by tackling tax evasion. In that regard, it was necessary to forge political and financial compacts that were not only declarations but also actions. Specific proposals for financial inclusion were needed to enable women to obtain more than microcredit, and ministries of economy should consider how greater participation by women would increase productivity. In addition to financial inclusion, gender-responsive social investment was also important. Without the funding needed to achieve greater equality, there would be no progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action.

33. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC then invited María Fernanda Espinosa, former Minister of Ecuador and former President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to take the floor. The former Minister of Ecuador thanked ECLAC for the report, which gave figures and trends regarding women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios. She said that women experienced more poverty, more violence, more racism, more discrimination and more vulnerability to climate change and trafficking in persons, and also less pay, fewer rights, less time and less investment. The Southern Hemisphere had a responsibility to generate more rights, more equality, more opportunities and more dignity.

34. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Argentina referred to the new institutional framework of her country, where a Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity had been established for the first time, and noted that it was essential to reassess the role of the State, beyond the important role of civil society, social movements and cooperatives. The representative of Guatemala said that inequality, particularly regarding gender, was the result of a historical evolution of exclusion and discrimination. She invited the women of the region to strengthen strategic partnerships to eradicate inequality, as it was a widespread problem at the regional level, and praised the role of ECLAC in creating a social agenda in which women proposed, arranged and decided. It was also important to raise awareness of the role and important contribution of indigenous women to sustainable development. The representative of Cuba said that, despite the blockade, Cuba had continued to develop and implement public policies to promote the advancement of women. An assessment of the country's fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goal 5 had been carried out with a view to taking practical action (such as gender audits). The Cuban Constitution, adopted by 86% of the population, clearly reflected the will to achieve equality and to prevent gender-based violence, and the State was responsible for protecting women and girls.

35. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that her country was working on public policies to promote the advancement of women, empowering professional, business and entrepreneurial women and supporting the training, education and prospects of women in economic, health, education and social plans to reduce gaps. The representative of El Salvador noted that for the first time in her country there were several female ministers, in areas such as education, housing, health and culture. The Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women, which she chaired, was paying special attention to the situation

of indigenous, rural and campesino women and was raising awareness of the different types of violence suffered by women in the region. In that regard, El Salvador would collaborate closely with Mexico on the issue of migration and forced displacement. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that progress had been made in areas such as political parity, and the Venezuelan Constitution recognized gender equality, including equal pay, mainly in the civil service. Work was under way on a law to protect women, for lives free of violence, including forms of violence such as cyberbullying. In addition, there was the Women's Development Bank in the country, which had been contributing to the empowerment of the poorest women and women victims of violence for 20 years. She said that the empowerment of working-class women should be especially encouraged.

#### Civil society declaration

36. A representative of civil society then read the declaration included in annex 4.

#### High-level panel on the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030: the perspective of Latin America (agenda item 4)

37. The panel was moderated by Markova Concepción Jaramillo, Minister for Social Development of Panama, and the panellists were Lucía Scuro, Social Affairs Officer in the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, Alejandra Mora, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women.

38. The Social Affairs Officer in the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC presented the *Regional progress report on the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*,<sup>4</sup> prepared by the Division for Gender Affairs, based on the 25 national reports on implementation of the Montevideo Strategy that had been submitted by the countries of the region. She said that eight countries —Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay— had formulated equality plans that incorporated the approaches, implementation pillars and measures set out in the Montevideo Strategy. It was in the socioeconomic sphere that the deepest gaps remained, since women's labour participation rate remained stagnant and the jobs they obtained were of lower quality. Regarding the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care, women's burden of unpaid domestic and care work remained far greater than that of men, even when women contributed the entire household income, which restricted women's ability to enter and remain in the labour market. The care economy needed to be analysed in all its complexity, since investing in it contributed to production structure diversification, economic growth and equality.

39. Regarding discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of the culture of privilege, she referred to femicide and said that official data provided by 31 countries in the region to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean showed that in 2018 more than 3,800 women had been killed owing to their gender and four of the five highest femicide rates in the region were recorded in Central America. In that area, a new wave of regulatory frameworks had been adopted that defined feminicide and gender-based violence, as well as other initiatives such as implementation of intersectoral coordination mechanisms, regional cooperation initiatives to strengthen information systems on violence against women, and training on gender-based violence for government officials. The concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere still constituted an

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<sup>4</sup> LC/CRM.14/5.

obstacle to progress towards parity democracies, but significant progress had been made in collecting information on women's political participation at the subnational level. Regulatory advances in the countries were not sufficient to promote women's participation in decision-making, so it was important to implement strategies related to State capacity-strengthening (such as women's participation and leadership programmes) to make regulatory compliance effective. In conclusion, the Social Affairs Officer said that the Montevideo Strategy, which had been adopted three years previously, was the road map for institutionalizing gender policies in States, overcoming structural obstacles, avoiding setbacks and achieving substantive equality by 2030.

40. The Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay said that substantive gender equality meant building a concept of equality that permeated all people's lives, as well as the full exercise of women's rights and autonomy, an active role for the State and civil society, the implementation of cultural, economic and political actions, the impact on the distribution of wealth, the breaking of patterns that reproduced inequality, and the equal representation of women at all levels. Gender policies should be State policies and a component of development policies. Progress in public policy had to be defended through ongoing dialogue between governments and society and training and awareness-raising for public officials, who formed the backbone of gender policy implementation.

41. The Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina agreed with the report's diagnosis, as there were still major obstacles to inequality that affected women and other genders and diversities specifically and differently. States had a responsibility to implement public policies to reduce existing gaps, but in many countries of the region economic models had been implemented that were by definition exclusionary, supported by neoliberal policies, which generated more poverty and States that were distant and unresponsive to their citizens. The State must not halt dialogue with social movements and trade unions. In Argentina, the new Government had created the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity with a view to a cultural change, through actions such as mandatory training on gender issues and gender-based violence for officials in the three branches of government, and work on national care policies. Cooperation and assistance links among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had to be strengthened and the Regional Conference on Women—the main intergovernmental forum on women's rights and gender equality in the region—was an uplifting event during a period of regressive politics in the region.

42. The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) said that the concept of work needed to be redefined in law to include reproductive work, and to recognize the rights of care recipients and of women caregivers. CIM had worked in coordination with ministries of labour and national machineries for the advancement of women to mainstream gender, and had adopted the Declaration of Lima on Equality and Autonomy in the Exercise of Women's Economic Rights, which covered issues such as wage gaps, awareness-raising of the economic and social value of unpaid work in the home, promotion of women's participation and leadership in all spaces, and social joint responsibility for care. There was no legal norm to standardize what was understood by economic empowerment, so one of the fundamental challenges was to analyse which right was being violated in each of the existing gaps, in order to make it enforceable vis-à-vis the State.

43. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean had not only made significant progress towards the aims of gender equality, but had also encouraged the rest of the world to pursue those issues. As a result of the new international and national institutional frameworks that had emerged to report on progress with the Sustainable Development Goals, governments were committing to certain actions and those commitments could be monitored. It was hoped that those mechanisms would generate sustained political will to implement the Regional Gender Agenda. There was a need to innovate in public policies and to

operationalize the intersectoral approach, as well as to strengthen information systems to determine where the most vulnerable women were and to put the focus and the budgetary resources there. Financing for equality was important, including the regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements and organizations, since without the contribution of such movements, it would not be possible to formulate public policies on gender.

44. The Minister for Social Development of Panama, in her capacity as moderator, summarized the information provided and said that having empirical data was the starting point for follow-up to the Montevideo Strategy. In Latin America and the Caribbean, feminization of poverty was evident, and there was a need to strengthen institutions that promoted women's rights, as well as to include multidimensional poverty indicators in public policy decision-making. In addition, awareness needed to be raised not only in the public sector, but also in the private sector and academic sector and among non-governmental organizations, as all stakeholders made important contributions to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5. The Montevideo Strategy set out a very precise road map and it was necessary to accelerate policy implementation and not to reverse the progress made by countries. In that regard, spaces for discussion such as the Conference were essential, in order to prioritize areas of action. It was important to further empower women to enable them to participate in decision-making in all areas. There could be no sustainable human development without reducing the forms of discrimination that persisted.

45. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the Dominican Republic said that the Montevideo Strategy had been useful for analysing the situation of women in her country and in developing the National Plan on Gender Equality and Equity 2020–2030 (PLANEG III). The representative of Cuba said that measures had been taken in her country to address the challenges related to the obstacles of discrimination and unequal distribution of work. Among other measures, she drew attention to maternity leave for working women.

46. The representative of civil society stressed the need to collect data that was disaggregated by race or ethnicity, which would reveal who States were neglecting. A representative of women domestic workers said that the harassment suffered by women in some sectors such as domestic work also needed to be considered.

High-level panel on the Beijing Platform for Action and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and international and regional instruments on women's rights and gender equality: the perspective of the Caribbean (agenda item 5)

47. The panel was moderated by Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and the panellists were Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, including Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, Delma Thomas, Minister for Social Development, Housing and Community Development of Grenada, Nerissa Gittens-McMillan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sharon Warner, Executive Officer with the Department of Gender Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Terry Ince, Founder and Convener of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

48. The Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, Youth and Gender Affairs, including Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda said new and emerging challenges required a paradigm shift to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Caribbean small island developing States, gains over the years could be halted and even reversed by a single extreme weather event. Climate change aggravated pre-existing inequalities, halting progress towards gender equality. There

was an urgent need to ensure that mitigation and adaptation initiatives integrated gender issues at all levels. In Antigua and Barbuda, women were overrepresented in the lower echelons of employment in the service industry, and therefore the vulnerability of the sector to external shocks would continue to limit their economic opportunities. The empowerment of women was important in building climate resilience. Greater participation by women in decision-making and political representation could contribute to the transformations needed to put the country on a sustainable development path. To achieve that goal, fiscal and policy space were needed, along with access to financing, technical support, new technologies, new industries and a new national development pathway.

49. The Minister for Social Development, Housing and Community Development of Grenada said that gender parity was necessary in every parliament and decision-making body. In Grenada there was a long history of women's participation in political and leadership positions. One example of gender-responsiveness was the designation of the fight against domestic violence and sexual abuse as a national priority in the medium-term agenda, as well as in the National Sustainable Development Plan 2035. Women's experiences in parliament and in political campaigns were different from those of men, as women faced challenges relating to physical security and reconciliation of family and political life, and were subject to greater public scrutiny. Although progress was being made, much remained to be done to facilitate women's participation in politics and other decision-making spaces.

50. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said that strengthening and reorganizing the Ministry had led to a more focused approach to the formulation and implementation of a gender policy. The Ministry's Gender Affairs Division, whose work was guided by the international human rights treaties ratified by the country, had established key partnerships with institutional and civil society bodies. As a result, several policy and legislative measures had been taken on poverty and gender-based violence, as well as on sexual and reproductive health. However, concerns remained that gender issues were not being given due consideration and that the lack of sustained resources for implementation made it difficult to coordinate and achieve gender equality. Therefore, there was a need for greater understanding of the importance of implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Montevideo Strategy. As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines focused on gender-based violence.

51. The Executive Officer with the Department of Gender Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis said there was a high percentage of female-headed households in her country. In 2018, the National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan was launched, which served as an institutional framework to facilitate gender equality and women's empowerment, in compliance with the 2030 Agenda and other instruments to which the State was a signatory. To address the feminization of poverty, the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis had implemented social protection programmes, enacted legislation to ensure a basic standard of living through extended social protection coverage and implemented poverty alleviation programmes, as well as various education, training and financial assistance programmes for teenage mothers and incarcerated women. There had also been an increase in the number of women reaching leadership positions in politics. State interventions incorporated the goals of the Montevideo Strategy, the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda, illustrating the country's commitment to implementation of gender-sensitive policies and social protection measures to reduce inequalities and realize gender equality.

52. The Founder and Convener of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago referred to the links between the substantive articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and subsequent gender-related instruments. Progress had been made in the subregion in the use of international and regional instruments to implement policies to guarantee women's autonomy, but

civil society had to play its full role, influencing legislation and contributing to the development of women and girls, providing oversight and holding governments accountable. The ministerial-level bodies responsible for gender affairs operated separately from the bodies for the protection of children's rights, and statistics on the increase in gender-based violence showed that obligations were not being met.

53. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean said the high-level panel was a space for the Caribbean to share the progress made in implementation of the Montevideo Strategy, in synergy with the Beijing Platform for Action. Progress had been made in strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to address violence against women, but the region still lacked disaggregated data to support more targeted intervention. The subregion had improved access to education for young women: harmful gender stereotypes had been eliminated in school curricula and the participation of women in non-traditional work settings had been promoted. In addition, the political participation and representation of women in leadership positions in the public and private spheres had increased. However, much remained to be done to achieve gender-parity democracy in the subregion. Special attention had been paid to gender mainstreaming in national development planning and to the extreme vulnerability of Caribbean small island developing States to disasters and extreme weather events. Another challenge was financing and budget allocation for gender equality policies and institutions, as countries had little fiscal space. That situation was also exacerbated by countries' inability to obtain concessional financing and other forms of trade facilitation and cooperation because of their middle-income status.

54. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Chile offered her country's assistance in view of the earthquake in the Caribbean and expressed her country's support for the issues raised by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Dominican Republic before the United Nations Security Council. The representative of the Bahamas expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to exchange experiences with other countries and learn from them personally, and also thanked ECLAC and other United Nations agencies that had provided assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, noting that technical support, funding and guidance were critical. A representative of civil society thanked the governments of the region for the measures they had taken in favour of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, although inclusive development and decision-making programmes were still needed in parity, plurinational and multi-ethnic democracies in the region. She called on governments to be open, sensitive and committed to the fulfilment of international commitments.

55. To conclude, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC commended the participants and panellists from the Caribbean and reiterated the Commission's commitment to putting the Caribbean first. One of the areas in which Latin American countries could show solidarity with the Caribbean was the vulnerability of the subregion to climate change, and women had to be involved in that process. ECLAC had proposed that Caribbean countries should be allowed to reduce their external debt through a debt for climate adaptation swap initiative, by transferring resources to a resilience fund managed by the countries. The Commission could serve as a facilitator for international financial institutions to help Caribbean countries, which needed special treatment, to obtain access to concessional financing. ECLAC had also called for a waiver so that small island developing States could have free access to technology. Lastly, she called for the collaboration of those present so that ECLAC could provide significant assistance to the countries of the Caribbean.

Special session: Generation Equality: outlook and challenges for Beijing+25 in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

56. The special session entitled Generation Equality: outlook and challenges for Beijing+25 in Latin America and the Caribbean was moderated by Carolina Plaza, Director of the National Service for Women and Gender Equity of Chile, and statements were made by María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas

and the Caribbean of UN-Women, Gabriela Ramos, Chief of Staff of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Damares Regina Alves, Minister of State for Women, the Family and Human Rights of Brazil, Harold Robinson, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), Sharon Coburn Robinson, Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of Jamaica, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

57. The Director of the National Service for Women and Gender Equity of Chile opened the special session by introducing the participants.

58. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women presented the *Regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin American and Caribbean countries, 25 years on*,<sup>5</sup> based on the reports of 25 countries, and highlighted the trends seen, the progress made and the remaining challenges. She said there was a lack of financial inclusion of women and ongoing feminization of poverty. Women who worked mainly in the informal sector had fewer social protection and social service benefits. With regard to violence, there had been progress in defining femicide in law, in following up on cases of missing women, in inter-institutional coordination, in the creation of shelters and in awareness-raising campaigns, although more budgetary resources were still needed as they were insufficient in the case of women's ministries. Regarding political participation, women were still underrepresented in political positions in the region. There was a need to integrate the gender perspective into policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and into the statistical measurement of time use and unpaid work. That required comprehensive legislation on violence, women's political participation, participation in economic and labour rights, and the establishment of care systems. The region as a whole faced challenges such as the realization of the right to a life without violence and discrimination; sexual and reproductive rights; economic, social and cultural rights; civil and political rights; and collective rights. The indivisibility of women's rights warranted comprehensive responses. Lastly, she stressed the importance of partnerships, commitments and cooperation.

59. The Chief of Staff of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said that discrimination persisted in all countries, but that there had also been advances in economic empowerment. There had been progress in women's labour participation, but the quality of their employment was lower, they worked in more precarious sectors of the economy and had more gaps in their career paths. Women needed to have more leadership roles in both government and the private sector, and gender stereotypes that prevented women's integration into different areas of activity, such as the digital world, needed to be eliminated. Lastly, she stressed the urgency of ending violence against women.

60. The Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico said it was important to have statistical data with which to identify needs and assess the progress made. The economic and political cycles of the region would influence the lives of women and the possibility of achieving equality. Youth and women's movements in the region had driven progress, and the Undersecretary called for international solidarity among women.

61. The Minister of State for Women, the Family and Human Rights of Brazil said there were various programmes in her country, and progress had been made particularly in relation to violence and discrimination. One example of that was the creation of women's police stations, with specialized units to serve them. The Government of Brazil wanted to ensure that no woman was left behind.

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<sup>5</sup> LC/CRM.14/4.



62. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that structural inequalities persisted in countries, particularly regarding Afrodescendent women, and girls and adolescents, groups that had the worst indicators of violence. Among the issues that had not been addressed at the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), child marriage was particularly noteworthy. It was an issue that was related to intergenerational poverty, maternal mortality, access to reproductive health, the eradication of gender-based violence and sexual violence, and femicide. The challenges the region faced included the economic slowdown, a contraction in public expenditure and the spread of opinions that questioned and sought to limit the autonomy of women and girls, the rights of Afrodescendants and those of the LGBTI population. There was a need to focus on territories and reach out to communities, and to change cultural norms that promoted adolescent marriage. It was important to leverage the demographic dividend, work in partnerships, and invest in young people and children, to ensure the 2030 Agenda was realized.

63. The Secretary General of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) said that there had been a significant struggle in the legislative field and that changes in laws were needed to increase women's political participation and to eliminate barriers to women's economic empowerment, which went beyond employment. Laws that prohibited participation in certain professions and made wage discrimination possible needed to be eliminated. There was a need for legal protection of areas such as maternity, paternity leave, access to social security regardless of type of work, care work and paid domestic work. Legislation should be adopted that prioritized public procurement from companies whose conduct was in accordance with the proposed gender goals. Adapting education systems to facilitate people's access to higher quality and more stable jobs would enable them to face new challenges.

64. The Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of Jamaica said that it was important to work in partnership with non-governmental organizations. Jamaica's priorities included the fight against gender-based violence—an area in which some progress had been made—measures to promote equality and non-discrimination in legislation, and access to justice and institutional mechanisms for political participation and representation. Some challenges that remained were gender stereotypes, the lack of sex-disaggregated information to inform policy measures, and a holistic perspective that would facilitate analysis of the root cause of gender inequality. Youth knowledge, traditional knowledge, new technologies and gender-responsive financing could all play valuable roles.

65. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the region faced challenges relating to globalization. Unchecked capitalism had exhausted its possibilities, so a new model of development was being sought: a different way of generating wealth. Climate change and its consequences was one example of a phenomenon that affected women more acutely. There was a need for democracy-enhancing multilateralism that defended the interests of the majority over those of the few, that would safeguard the rights of groups that had no voice or seat in conferences such as the one being held, and that would strengthen society's capacity for transparent and open discussion that was not dominated by power groups. The message from the Conference was that Latin America and the Caribbean wanted to have a place and a voice at the global level.

#### Reading of the civil society declaration on Beijing+25

66. A representative of civil society read out a statement on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (see annex 5).

67. The representative of Guatemala expressed her appreciation for the engagement of young people and their contribution to the issues raised, particularly for a country like hers with many young people and

women. The representative of Colombia said that progress had been made in her country, such as the inclusion of a specific chapter to advance women's equality in the National Development Plan, 2018–2022, and the participation of women in ministries and high-level political positions. The representative of Mexico, after making a statement in the Nahuatl language, underscored the importance of protecting indigenous mother tongues, which she said was a forgotten issue that the region should defend.

68. The representative of the International Labour Organization referred to the challenges of the future of work relating to technological, ecological and social transformations and called on countries to ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190). The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund said that it was important to put intersectionality, diversity and intergenerationality at the heart of the Santiago Commitment. Statistical silence on issues such as violence, femicide, early pregnancy and school dropout hampered the development of public policies. It was worrying that no reduction had been seen in child marriage and early unions, and there was a need to address gender biases in the education system. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said that feminization of rural poverty had continued, as had as the situation of extreme violence, and of lack of access to public resources and social protection, and stressed that it was important to focus efforts and actions. He called on participants to urgently address the situation of rural women in the region, who were in a state of vulnerability regarding food and nutritional security.

69. A representative of civil society called on the countries to sign and ratify the international treaties of the inter-American and human rights systems, in particular the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement). She expressed her opposition to financial extractivism and said it would of interest to determine the costs and consequences for women of many of the policies indicated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. She then questioned World Trade Organization policies such as the patenting of seeds and biodiversity, and demanded the eradication of agROTOXINS, cyanide mining, hydraulic fracturing (fracking), deforestation and the cementing of wetlands, which were crucial issues for the region.

#### High-level seminar: Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios (agenda item 7)

70. The following four panels were held as part of the of the high-level seminar on women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios.

#### Panel 1: Globalization and gender equality: main economic and financial trends

71. Panel 1 was moderated by Gheidy Gallo, Presidential Adviser for Women's Equity of Colombia, and the panellists were Raúl Rafael González Álvarez, with the Department of Macprudential Analysis and Supervision Standards of the Office of the Superintendent of Banks of Guatemala, Cecilia Chacón, Human Rights Secretary of Ecuador, Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, Researcher with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Public Research (CIEPP) and member of the Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and Ana Novik, Head of the Investment Division of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

72. The Presidential Adviser for Women's Equity of Colombia, in her capacity as moderator, said that the panel was important, given the challenges faced by women in the economic and financial sphere in a context of globalization and digitalization.

73. The representative of the Department of Macroprudential Analysis and Supervision Standards of the Office of the Superintendent of Banks of Guatemala said that a process had been under way for five years in the Superintendency of Banks of Guatemala to develop gender indicators in the financial sphere. It had been observed that women had a larger share of smaller loans, which were geared towards consumption and credit cards; the interest rates for women were higher; women's share of business borrowing was smaller than men's, and in all age groups the cost of credit for women was higher than for men. In terms of delinquency rates on borrowing, women showed better debt service than men; in terms of guarantees, women were more likely to secure loans with guarantees that placed certain assets in a trust (*garantías fiduciarias*) than with real estate. In Guatemala, the importance of these findings had been appreciated and banks were making efforts to improve credit conditions for women.

74. The Human Rights Secretary of Ecuador said that her ministerial portfolio had influenced her country's equality policies. The women's and feminist movement in Ecuador was exposing the violation of rights. The complex scenarios of globalization revealed fragmentation, inequality and social discontent. The State was called upon to be a guarantor of rights. In a context of globalization, financial crises and conservative patriarchal power, the challenge was to achieve specific solutions from government and with the participation of women's movements.

75. The Researcher with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Public Research (CIEPP) and member of the Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) referred to the context of globalization in a more connected and more uncertain world, with a financial economy that had decoupled from the real economy, an economic slowdown and an increasing and extreme concentration of capital, wealth and income. She said that international trade offered possibilities for development of economies and it was important to include gender chapters in international trade agreements, although they were not always binding. In a financialized world, the financial inclusion of women was important. From the fiscal standpoint, companies and people with more resources had to pay their taxes so that States could finance policies that also favoured women. The dynamics of globalization should promote the sustainability of life.

76. The Head of the Investment Division of OECD said that the benefits of globalization had not been equally distributed. New studies showed how potential GDP growth increased if participation gaps were reduced. OECD was analysing the effects of foreign direct investment and had found that it was directed at sectors of activity in which women were less involved or in which their wages were lower. The private and public sectors should coordinate to improve the position of women in global value chains.

77. The moderator summarized the key points of the presentations, which were followed by comments from some representatives. The representative of Argentina referred to the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment adopted on the occasion of the eleventh World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, in Buenos Aires in 2017, which was a milestone in the field. She said that a rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system was important for correcting asymmetries and increasing international cooperation for women's economic empowerment. The representative of Nicaragua spoke of the priority her country gave to mainstreaming a gender perspective in laws, policies, plans and programmes that would guarantee the restoration of rights and the full participation of women in decision-making spaces. The representative of Colombia noted that the activities that generated the most value were those linked to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas and that the gap in women's participation in such activities needed to be closed. The representative of Costa Rica referred to the country's National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity, which sought to generate substantive changes in the areas of the culture of rights for equality, time distribution, wealth distribution and the distribution of power.

78. The representative of Canada said that in her country every person had to have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. Not everyone had been able to access the benefits of globalization, and Canada had therefore taken measures such as adopting a feminist approach in the area of foreign trade and international assistance. Forums such as the Conference promoted discussion of ideas to increase women's participation, for a safer and more prosperous world. The representative of Haiti said that her country's history had been marked by natural disasters and political crises, but it was continuing along a path of building a fairer society, with an emphasis on women's education and health. The crisis in Haiti had led to an increase in insecurity, and particularly violence against women; in response, the Government of Haiti had launched campaigns to combat violence against women. Lastly, she thanked all the development partners who were supporting Haiti. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia congratulated ECLAC, UN-Women and the countries present for their commitment to gender equality, which was an act of justice. As an example of the inequality that needed to be overcome in her country, she mentioned the criteria applied to agricultural property, which were detrimental to women.

79. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) outlined the five key messages from the *Human Development Report 2019*,<sup>6</sup> which she said were transformative at a time of transition towards sustainability: widespread disparities in human development remained, although progress was being made in reducing extreme deprivations; a new generation of inequalities was emerging, and there was divergence in capabilities; inequalities accumulated through life, often heightened by deep power imbalances; assessing and responding to inequalities in human development required a revolution in metrics; and redressing inequalities was possible, if action was taken before imbalances in economic power moved into the political arena.

80. The representative of World Food Programme (WFP) said that financial inclusion of women producers must necessarily go beyond access to financing. Financial education was needed, accompanied by a review of agricultural insurance systems, which covered the needs of credit institutions but not those of families engaged in agricultural activities.

#### Panel 2: The digital revolution: trends and impacts on women's lives

81. Panel 2 was moderated by Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the panellists were Jannixia Villalobos, Director of Social Appropriation of Knowledge of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, Carmen Bueno, Senior Specialist in Health and Safety at Work of the Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the Southern Cone of Latin America, Lise Østby, Senior Adviser on Gender Equality of the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (BUFDIR), and Mónica Retamal, Executive Director of Kodea.

82. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the issue of gender equality should be at the forefront of digital policies because digitalization, the use of robots, and artificial intelligence would affect production models, required skills, and labour functions in sectors such as commerce, industry and agro-industry. One example was the impact on maquila activity in Central America. A gender policy on digital issues, in a regional context of countries producing little industrial and technology policy, was crucial for the region. The panel was therefore a valuable exercise.

83. The Director of Social Appropriation of Knowledge of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica said that her country had a national policy for the equality of women

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2019. Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century*, New York, 2019.

and men in science and technology, which was based on five pillars: attracting women to scientific and technological careers, with educational initiatives; training and retaining women in careers related to science and technology; promoting work through public-private partnerships, with emphasis on empowerment for leadership positions; social uptake of science and technology, and; institutional strengthening and monitoring. Public policies and civil society support for science and technology for all were key to progress.

84. The Senior Specialist in Health and Safety at Work of the Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the Southern Cone of Latin America reflected on the impact of digital technologies on decent work for women, since women's access to employment did not necessarily result in access to decent work. ILO recommended harnessing the technological revolution to foster decent work for women, lifelong learning, and a coming-together of the private and educational sectors to encourage women to study for qualifications in STEM subjects; supporting women workers in the transition between jobs; ensuring social security floors and a strong and responsive social protection system; carrying out a transformative programme for gender equality, with initiatives such as the sharing of domestic tasks; establishing a universal labour guarantee and a system of international governance that required respect for minimum rights and guarantees; better reconciling work and family life; promoting a gender perspective in occupational health and safety; and revitalizing social dialogue and collective bargaining.

85. The Senior Adviser on Gender Equality of BUFDIR said that gender mainstreaming was the chosen strategy in Norway to achieve gender equality in all areas of society. The Norwegian State focused on the transition to working life, the integration of women into the labour market, and care services in particular. The high labour participation rate for women was also the result of welfare policies in other sectors. Norway had a regulated labour market, in which the informal sector was a minority. The digital revolution would be a success only if both men and women participated in it. Norway was a highly digitized country, which was valuable for both public services and private companies. Artificial intelligence could have a positive impact on women's lives, but it could also pose risks that needed to be understood, such as cyberbullying, which could limit women's right to express themselves.

86. The Executive Director of Kodea said the fourth industrial revolution was having an impact on education and the world of work. Latin America and the Caribbean had a major problem in terms of higher-level digital skills and the workforce was going to have to acquire them. The gaps were likely to widen, so issues such as the universal wage would be relevant. The skills needed in the twenty-first century were not only digital skills, but also those related to critical thinking and learning to learn, and the Latin American workforce had given little priority to these issues. There was also a tendency towards self-employment. The process of making the production matrix more sophisticated was an opportunity to promote gender policies.

87. The moderator summarized the key points from the presentations and opened the floor for comments. The representative of Argentina said there was a context of concentration of economic power and male power in science and technology spaces, and that women should therefore occupy more decision-making spaces. The Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia said that there was an interesting opportunity for information and statistics to make gender gaps visible and that statistical offices were committed to guaranteeing gender mainstreaming in statistical production. The representative of Mexico referred to a number of challenges posed by digitalization, such as the monopoly of information, cyberviolence—which limited freedom of the press—narratives of violence and sexist hate speech, the increase in pornography including child pornography, the use of big data for the exclusive benefit of private companies, gender discrimination in algorithms, and false news in the media.

88. The representative of the International Labour Organization said that her organization was undertaking a research programme on production diversification. The region faced the enormous challenge of overcoming not only the digital divide, but also an educational divide. Women's ministries had to be part of the solutions to these challenges. The representative of the World Food Programme said that they were embracing digital opportunities to gather more data and gain greater insight into how men and women had different vulnerabilities, were affected differently by disasters, and had differentiated needs, in order to improve transparency and to better connect with the people they served. The representative of UN-Women said that the entity had carried out a survey of Latin America and the Caribbean on national policies, laws and plans relating to gender equality in STEM areas and a survey of good practice tools on the topics addressed in the panel, which she made available to interested parties. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme mentioned that the Programme was working on dialogues between the private sector, the public sector and the education sector to close capability gaps through labour forecasting exercises, certification programmes and gender equality seals, and that it was addressing issues of monitoring and financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and Chair of the Open Campus Council of the University of the West Indies said that most of the University's graduates were women, in all faculties, including engineering. However, women did not enter jobs in the field of technology, which was clearly a cultural problem that needed to be addressed.

89. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that there was a need for a strategic perspective on the relationship between the digital revolution, industrial policy and gender. He said that the region had made progress in access to information technologies, for both men and women, but that there was limited participation in the digital ecosystem, with high consumption of digital technologies but low capacity for generation. The platform economy was continuing to develop, with marked concentration of enterprises and services, and gender gaps continued to be reproduced and widened. The region had the opportunity to move towards a regional digital market, overcoming challenges of interconnection, infrastructure and regulatory harmonization, and an opportunity to define a new approach to industrial policy in which the gender dimension was fundamental.

90. A representative of civil society said that it was necessary to move towards the recognition of Internet access as a basic human right, to take fundamental measures regarding the concentration of power of digital corporations since there was a correlation between the ownership of technology and the concentration of wealth, and to establish monitoring mechanisms that would prevent discrimination of content.

### Panel 3: The care economy: trends and impacts of demographic change

91. The panel was moderated by Teresa Amarelle, Secretary General of the Federation of Cuban Women, and the panellists were Benefrida Espinoza Rojas, Head of Cooperation and Projects of the Ministry for Women's Affairs of Paraguay; Judith Karijodrono, Head of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname; Asia Villegas Poljak, Minister of the People's Power for Women and Gender Equality of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Juana del Carmen Britez, Vice-President of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) and representative of Unión Personal Auxiliar de Casas Particulares (UPACP) of Argentina; and Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia.

92. The Secretary General of the Federation of Cuban Women, in her capacity as moderator, thanked the Commission for having convened the Conference without fail over four decades. Turning to the topic of the panel, she said that the value of women's unpaid work had yet to be recognized in contemporary economic thinking or in public policy. There was a clear message from the discussions held during the Conference that care should be approached not as a private matter but a collective one.

93. The Head of Cooperation and Projects of the Ministry for Women's Affairs of Paraguay spoke of the policies her country had adopted to deal with demographic change. The country was in the incipient stages of population ageing, which influenced public policymaking. The demographic dividend was expected to last until 2054, after which the dependency ratio would begin to increase. The age structure made it easier to address the issue of care than in other regions. Her government sought to promote care policy as a matter of State policy.

94. The Head of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname, speaking of the state of care in her country, said that women's labour participation was lower than men's and that women were mainly employed in the service sector. Women were limited by their care-related workload, which placed a dual burden on their health, education and leisure time. She mentioned the various measures Suriname had adopted for the protection of the human rights of women, which were interdependent and interrelated.

95. The Minister of the People's Power for Women and Gender Equality of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela referred to some of the negative effects of globalization on women, including IMF structural adjustment programmes calling for less State participation and greater privatization; the lowering of pensions; the outsourcing of female employment; and the preponderance of women in the informal sector or in precarious industries such as maquila plants. The neoliberal patriarchal culture impinged on women's living conditions. Her Government sought to ensure equality between men and women and recognized that domestic work generated wealth and social well-being, and housewives had access to social security. Women were present in all organizational structures, representing the popular government at the most concrete levels.

96. The Vice-President of IDWF and representative of UPACP of Argentina noted that the concept of the care economy had gained more traction in recent years. The policy decisions taken in this area are very important for welfare, growth, equality and human rights. Domestic workers played a key role in demographic transitions. Many households depended on paid domestic work to meet care needs. Yet, despite regional progress, the contribution of these workers remained invisible. Domestic work remained one of the most precarious and insecure forms of employment. The care economy was generally recognized in health and education, but far less so in paid domestic work.

97. The Director of DANE of Colombia remarked that national statistical offices participated in the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. National time-use surveys provided input for sociological and economic discussions, with regard not only to the care economy but also to challenges such as migration and the demographic transition in the region.

98. Following the moderator's summary of the salient points made by the panellists, the representative of Argentina recalled that care policies already existed in the region and they should recognize the diversity of families and be used as a countercyclical measure in times of crisis and recession. The representative of Ecuador said that initiatives involving both paid and unpaid domestic workers were being carried out in her country and emphasized that care was the responsibility of all, including the State and the private sector. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela mentioned the maternity and paternity protection measures her country had implemented for workers.

99. The representative of UN-Women highlighted the region's contribution in the area of care policies. She also welcomed progress in the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of ILO, with an additional 15 countries having done so. Knowledge management strategies had been developed by the United Nations and by countries. Lastly, she called for in-depth reflection on the future of care. The representative of ILO underscored that improving domestic work conditions would translate into improved

working conditions for women workers in general and that countries should not see that as an expense but as an investment. The UNFPA representative called for the implementation of comprehensive care systems from a human rights and gender perspective taking intersectionality and interculturality into account, building on the region's demographic bonus. The representative of the Ibero-American Social Security Organization said that women should not be penalized upon retirement simply because they had devoted years to care work that greatly benefited the wider population. That work must be recognized in pension systems.

100. A representative of Peruvian domestic workers noted the importance of discussion on the provision of care for school-age children, older persons and persons with disabilities by domestic workers but which was the responsibility of the State and private companies. She asked that consideration be given to the influx of migrant women from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Ecuador, Peru and other countries of the region. Care should be one of the main issues on the agenda and spaces for discussion that included women workers from the region were needed.

Panel 4: Climate change: trends, opportunities and challenges for gender equality

101. The panel was moderated by Joseluis Samaniego, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC. The panellists were Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile; Ana Lorena Flores, Director-General of Strategic Areas of the National Women's Institute (INAMU) of Costa Rica; Jacinta Higgs, Director of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development of the Bahamas; June Soomer, Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); and Maisa Rojas, Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research.

102. The moderator said that the climate crisis was worsening as a result of a development model that was characterized by excessive risk-taking and unfettered competition. The Paris Agreement was translated into domestic policy through nationally determined contributions, which would set the stage for effective, sustainable and climate-just responses. There were two important instruments in the region: the Montevideo Strategy and the Escazú Agreement, the latter of which to date had been ratified by seven countries. The issue was addressed astutely in the position paper presented to the Conference.

103. The Minister of the Environment of Chile said that climate change and social justice were closely linked and that the most vulnerable persons were the hardest hit by climate change. She stressed the need to mainstream gender in the fight against global warming. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, a lack of opportunities and substantial gaps limited women's ability to better cope with the effects of climate change. Women were key agents of change; without them, policies to address climate change would not be viable. At the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), under the Presidency of Chile and during which agreements relating to gender issues had been reviewed, women accounted for 43% of national representatives. A gender plan within the Paris Agreement would provide a road map for closing the gender gap, strengthening gender-sensitive climate action at all levels, including subnational levels. She underscored the importance of strengthening capacity-building in governments and incorporating the gender perspective in nationally determined contributions. There was a need to implement gender-sensitive climate policies—in particular climate change adaptation and mitigation measures—and financing, capacity-building and technology policies; and to collect gender-disaggregated data to measure real gaps. Technical training was also needed for those responsible for implementing public policies on climate change. She referred to the progress made in her country and invited participating countries to tackle the shared challenges of climate change and gender gaps to build a more just and humane world.



104. The Director-General of Strategic Areas of INAMU of Costa Rica said that given the urgency of addressing climate change, her country was adopting the necessary mitigation and prevention measures. Five key elements had helped to put Costa Rica on a gender-responsive path: a supranational framework of commitments, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Strategy, among others; mainstreaming the gender perspective in environmental policies; the National Policy on Adaptation to Climate Change 2018–2030 and the National Decarbonization Plan; linking environmental and gender quality policies; and strengthening capacity in the areas of technical assistance and advisory services on environmental matters and climate change in the machinery for the advancement of women.

105. The Director of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development of the Bahamas spoke of the tremendous damage caused by Hurricane Dorian, the strongest ever to pass through the Bahamas, which had mainly affected women, many of them migrants, who had lost their homes and been displaced. Cooperation efforts had been fruitful and she thanked other countries, United Nations agencies and ECLAC for their assistance.

106. The Secretary-General of ACS recalled that every year the Caribbean faced devastating climate events that affected women in particular owing to poverty, their lower position on the social ladder, the fact that rural women worked the land and women were not paid for their labour. Women heads of household in the Caribbean were underrepresented in statistics because they were not considered as such as long as there was a man present. When the effects of climate change affected indigenous women or women of African descent, the global response was not the same. Lastly, she said that it was not just a question of closing the gender gap: it was time to put an end to the many systems of oppression that operated alongside climate change and prevented indigenous and Afrodescendent women from making progress.

107. The Director of the Center for Climate and Resilience Research said that the longer it took to address climate change, the longer it would take to achieve the SDGs. The sexual division of labour was evident in the unequal participation of women in science; confronting climate change meant that both women and men must play a part in caring for the planet. Global warming was the symptom of a development and organizational model that was based on the concentration of power. The key to changing that situation was sharing power and decision-making.

108. Following the moderator's summary of the key points raised by the panellists, the representative of Chile highlighted the progress made at COP 25 and the representative of Argentina underscored the need to incorporate the perspective of indigenous peoples in development plans.

109. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC recalled that the next session of the Commission would be held in Costa Rica and that the central theme that had been proposed was balancing economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability. Chile and Costa Rica were the only countries in the region that had committed to decarbonization. Latin America and the Caribbean was increasingly carbon-dependent and while it accounted for only 8.3% of global emissions, its extractivist, carbon-intensive and haphazardly urbanized production matrix was not sustainable unless the region could find new areas for wealth creation and equality. The care economy was a growth sector to watch. She stressed the need to advance on the debt swap for Caribbean countries for the creation of a resilience fund to support climate change adaptation projects with a clear incorporation of the gender perspective. Caribbean countries should also benefit from a waiver on intellectual property rights for green technologies. In closing, she recalled the Escazú Agreement, the sole instrument that protected human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Round table: Challenges of comprehensive policies for gender equality

110. The round table was moderated by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and the speakers were Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice-President of Colombia; Nadine Gasman, President of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico; Óscar Urquizu, Deputy Minister for Equal Opportunities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Hazel Brown, Coordinator of the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women; María Ángeles Durán, Sociologist and Doctor of Political Science of the Spanish National Research Council; and María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women.

111. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that 43 years after the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America had first convened, the current meeting was a milestone. She said that although progress had been made in the interim, inequality persisted. It was imperative to recognize paid work as well as the care economy and to promote the financial inclusion of women, among other things. The women attending the meeting had been able to exercise their rights and enjoy opportunities, but that countless others had been unable to do so meant that further progress towards achieving women's autonomy was needed. She said that the prevailing economic model was obsolete and there was a need to find a new path that fully included women. Noting that women consistently adopted a progressive and inclusive approach, she added that it was important to increase women's participation in value chains.

112. The Vice-President of Colombia said that it was time to step up efforts to include women in the global economy to drive development. All agencies should have a concrete and ambitious agenda, with specific and measurable objectives. New thinking had to be developed on the sharing of work commitments between men and women. Efforts to include women entrepreneurs, businesswomen and farm owners had to be intensified. Networks of women were essential, hence the proposal to create a network of women entrepreneurs of Latin America and the Caribbean, all working together. There was also a need to include more women in STEM careers, and to harness the ancestral knowledge of indigenous women and women of African descent. The SDGs served as the guiding principles for the agenda of the Government of Colombia.

113. The President of INMUJERES of Mexico said that 2020 would mark 75 years since the inclusion of gender equality in the Charter of the United Nations, thanks to the efforts of women diplomats from Latin America. The region faced monumental challenges such as a lack of economic growth at a time when the international community had undertaken a commitment to leave no one behind. Urgent action was needed to transform the economic model in a manner that took women's participation into account. Mexico's development plan—drafted with the input of rural women, indigenous women, women of African descent, young women and activists—aimed to move from a growth economy to a welfare economy. An extensive dialogue, mediated by INMUJERES, had been launched with a view to strengthening women's autonomy and participation, combating violence against women, building safe environments and improving conditions for women's access to welfare and health care without discrimination. The Government of Mexico was committed not only to avoiding reversing achievements but also to furthering progress made in women's well-being.

114. The Deputy Minister for Equal Opportunities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that there was complete agreement on the need to fight for equality. Achieving gender equality would require comprehensive policies and changes in the areas of education, justice and resource allocation. To tackle violence, it was essential to work with men on developing positive masculinities, such as sharing care work. Care must be provided for survivors of violence and there was no room for impunity. It was imperative to change harmful male behaviours and to work toward gender equality by implementing relevant regulations and policies.

115. The Coordinator of the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, recalling the contribution of Caribbean civil society to the negotiations of the Beijing Platform for Action, said that the objective of creating a momentum for change in gender perspectives remained unchanged. The two key objectives in developing and implementing gender equality policies were the process—institutions, data, institutional awareness, language used in policies, participatory approach—and the adoption of new methods to address new areas of concern. Some of the current challenges affecting women and girls in the region were inclusive development, social protection, adolescent pregnancy, and migration. Increased exposure and vulnerability to climate and environmental disasters must be viewed from both a security and social perspective as they increased poverty and the highly indebted middle-income Caribbean countries lacked the resources to adequately address post-disaster needs. Urgent action was required at the political, social and community levels. Regional and international solidarity was therefore a must. She underscored the need to close the gap between rhetoric and reality and to reignite the commitment to action.

116. The Sociologist and Doctor of Political Science of the Spanish National Research Council recalled that women's work was not always taken into account in national indicators. It was not wrong to say that the economic system was obsolete and that new models were needed. One major issue was how to define wealth and development and how to interpret the changes taking place in the market, in households and in the State. Reducing the burden of care for households, for example, would require a 10% increase in public services. She said that Latin America and the Caribbean had not capitalized on the demographic dividend and that the question remained as to what would happen when 25% of older persons lacked adequate coverage.

117. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that without financing to achieve it, equality was but an unattainable dream. Women should have their own income, equal opportunities and social equality. It was necessary to strengthen care mechanisms and establish national care systems. Further, she said that given the scarcity of women in politics, parity must be the main focus. She stressed the importance of participating in the Generation Equality Forum, to be held in May 2020 in Mexico City and in July 2020 in Paris. She said that 20 years had passed since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and that women must participate in peace processes on an equal basis.

118. During the ensuing discussion, the representative of Guatemala said that comprehensive gender equality policies were needed, noting that it was mostly men who were in charge of formulating public policies and that more women must be involved. The inclusion of indigenous women and women of African descent was imperative: it was not merely an ethical issue but a matter of reflecting the composition of the population of many countries in the region. She also referred to environmental degradation and climate change and said that the ancestral practices of indigenous peoples should be taken into account. The representative of Ecuador said that the fundamental challenge was that public policy did not work unless it was implemented. She added that participants in the Conference had a responsibility to return to their countries with a commitment to make those policies a reality. The representative of Argentina said that multilateralism provided an opportunity for women to build together. While indigenous women and women of African descent had been discussed at the Conference, regrettably, Latin America and the Caribbean was moving backwards in that regard. The representative of Spain said that there was a long history of collaboration between ECLAC and her country, which had always supported gender equality policies. She noted the progress made and recalled that Spain had an agreement with UN-Women and ECLAC that complemented and strengthened the agendas of those two bodies. The representative of Canada mentioned that advancing gender equality was one of her government's most important priorities, as evidenced by the appointment of a gender-balanced cabinet, the adoption of federal gender budgets, as well as investments in women and girls and the implementation of Canada's feminist foreign policy. Canada was committed to continue to make progress towards achieving gender equality and to advocate for the recognition of

women's rights nationally and internationally so that women and girls could assume leadership roles and help to build the world envisioned by the 2030 Agenda.

119. The representative of the Bahamas said that the region had agreed, with dignity and respect for all, on a single position to present at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She thanked ECLAC for its outreach efforts in the Caribbean and the Executive Secretary, in particular, who sought parity and equality among all the countries of the region. She asked whether, in the nine years left to achieve the SDGs, ECLAC could identify and reach out to countries in need of technical and financial assistance for achieving specific Goals. The representative of Mexico said that at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing a pact had been made for a world in which all women and girls could live without violence, attend school and receive equal pay for equal work, which guaranteed sexuality and reproductive rights and where the burden of care was shared. The representative of Costa Rica said that the key message 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women was that there was no going back. Creative ways forward must continue to be sought. The Generation Equality Forum to be held in Mexico City and Paris paved the way in that regard. She also stressed the importance of work on public-private partnerships and the climate change agenda. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean, thanked ECLAC for an impactful week for the subregion and for the spotlight on the effect of climate change on women and girls. The Caribbean shared good practices and was willing to do so with Latin America. Countries must continue to make every effort to give fair and equal opportunities to women and girls, and cooperation was needed to that end. The Caribbean remained committed to working with ECLAC and the wider region to achieve gender equality.

120. The Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay said that although a change of government was under way in her country, State policies were being maintained. The Conference had brought together all the countries of the region, in particular those of the Caribbean. It had also welcomed and given voice to the women's social movement, which had succeeded in realizing the rights of girls and women, without sacrificing support for men and boys. The great diversity of women, indigenous women, rural women and older women in many countries was a source of strength for the region.

121. The representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said that HIV/AIDs was not just a disease but also an issue of social justice, poverty, exclusion and the denial of rights. Awareness needed to be raised on the problems of discrimination against women and girls, including women living with HIV/AIDS, trans women, sex workers and LGBTI persons. Against the backdrop of changing economic scenarios, focus should be placed on State investment in public policies on HIV/AIDS prevention, all of which should be sustainable, focused, efficient and community-centered, and formulated from a gender perspective.

122. A civil society representative said that women with disabilities faced additional barriers, including cultural ones. She urged governments to include women with disabilities in their official delegations. She also asked women in feminist organizations to support women with disabilities, with empathy and without indulging in welfarism. Lastly, she pointed out that the slogan "Nothing about us without us" also applied to women with disabilities. Another civil society representative said that the economic recipes of the last few decades had impoverished the majority, generating inequality, violence and the exclusion of millions of men and women. She called for the eradication of precarious employment, unemployment, unequal distribution of the care burden, productive and reproductive obstacles, and environmental degradation and for the strengthening of social security, with women's social movements recognized as important stakeholders in that effort. A third civil society representative drew attention to the economic vulnerability of female sex workers and to the lack of recognition of their economic contribution.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 8)

123. The member States participating in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Santiago Commitment, the text of which is presented in annex 1 of this report.

124. The Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission announced that the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be held in Argentina.

**Closing session**

125. The Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile said that her country was fully aware of the great challenge that came with the chairship of the Conference. Gender equity in the region had to be a cross-cutting cause to which all women must contribute. Social, economic, political and cultural gaps needed to be closed amid changing scenarios characterized by economic instability, climate change and demographic changes. In the outcome document of the Conference, countries would commit to advancing in building a gender perspective into policies and programmes on sustainable development, climate change adaptation and disaster risk mitigation, to designing comprehensive care systems and to promoting policies to increase the representation of women, including women with disabilities, in the decision-making process. Some of the commitments Chile was prioritizing included promoting co-responsibility of care between men and women and healthy ageing, forming technical and political teams to advance gender-related provisions in trade agreements, and ensuring that women entrepreneurs benefited from opportunities and that their rights were respected. The country would also collaborate with the private sector to narrow wage gaps. The adoption of the Santiago Commitment was a reflection of political will and would be the starting point for a very fruitful dialogue in the years to come with a view to overcoming the gaps that still stood in the way of women's advancement.

126. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that for equality to become a reality, there was a need for political will, funding and a shared commitment to that end.

127. The representative of Argentina noted the spirit of dialogue among countries and said that it augured well for the next session of the Conference, to be held in Argentina.

128. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC congratulated the participants on the successful outcome of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference was a space that had brought together all the countries of the region, civil society, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations for more than 40 years. It was imperative to achieve parity, end violence against women and ensure that women were valued for their contribution to the world and to the sustainable development of countries. She stressed that social movements were a sign of social transformation, reflecting a profound civilizational change that would put paid to the culture of privilege. It was also necessary to rethink the development model and women had a leading role to play in that regard. In closing, she called to mind the Mirabal sisters' yearning for the eradication of all privileges, a yearning reflected in the work of those who fought for that which was just in the Latin American and Caribbean region.



## Annex 1

**SANTIAGO COMMITMENT**

*The member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago from 28 to 31 January 2020,*

*Bearing in mind* the obligations assumed by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, especially No. 100, No. 156, No. 169, No. 189 and No. 190, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and guarantee all the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality,

*Reaffirming* the commitments assumed by States in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) (2014), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015),

*Confirming* the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that make up the Regional Gender Agenda and are included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977), the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001 (1994), the Santiago Consensus (1997), the Lima Consensus (2000), the Mexico City Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007), the Brasilia Consensus (2010), the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), and in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013),

*Bearing in mind* that, at their fifty-sixth meeting, held in Havana from 5 to 6 October 2017, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to

“adopt women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios” as the main theme for discussion at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>1</sup>

*Bearing in mind also* the participatory process conducted in preparation for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which contributions from the member States of the Conference, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements, were compiled and incorporated,

*Concerned* at the challenges that changing economic scenarios pose to the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of women’s rights, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region, agree to:

1. *Welcome* the document *Women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios*<sup>2</sup> and commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, on its preparation;

2. *Also welcome* the *Regional progress report on the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*,<sup>3</sup> and commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the high-level panel on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy;

3. *Further welcome* the *Regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin American and Caribbean countries, 25 years on*,<sup>4</sup> commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on its preparation and acknowledge the achievements and progress made over the 25 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, as reflected in the national reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in four main areas: (i) progress in the formulation and adoption of laws and regulations that typify femicide or feminicide; (ii) the significant —albeit still insufficient— increase in women’s participation in the decision-making spheres in the framework of the parity democracy approach enshrined in the Montevideo Strategy; (iii) the installation on the public agenda of the topic of care and unpaid work, as an integral part of social protection systems; and (iv) incorporating the gender approach in the institutional architecture of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level;

4. *Recognize* that women, adolescents girls in all their diversity are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization throughout their lives, and that it is therefore necessary to respect and appreciate their diversity of situations and conditions and acknowledge that they face barriers to their empowerment and to the exercise of their rights, and that it is necessary to adopt intersectional strategies to address their specific needs, affording particular attention to the feminization of poverty in the region;

5. *Take* all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming at the different

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<sup>1</sup> LC/MDM.56/3.

<sup>2</sup> LC/CRM.14/3.

<sup>3</sup> LC/CRM.14/4.

<sup>4</sup> LC/CRM.14/5.



levels of the State, increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources according to national realities, capacities and legislation, gender-responsive budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with a view to strengthening the implementation of equality policies in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Promote* the enactment and implementation of legislation, multisectoral policies, comprehensive action plans and education and sensitization programmes to prevent, address, punish and eliminate different forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescents and girls, including those with disabilities, in its various spheres: private, public, political, economic, institutional, symbolic and obstetric, and in situations of conflict, natural disaster and deprivation of liberty, as well as different types and manifestations, such as workplace harassment, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and exploitation, migrant smuggling, trafficking in women and girls, forced prostitution, rape, femicide, forced marriage and cohabitation imposed on girls and adolescents, in different spheres such as public safety and cities, legislation and access to justice, the media and educational content, and through stereotypes, sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia, lesbophobia, transphobia and discrimination, in accordance with national legislation, as well as forms of violence facilitated by technology, especially information and communications technologies and emerging technologies and over social networks;

7. *Foster* measures and mechanisms to eliminate legal, cultural, social and institutional obstacles, in order to ensure the right to a life free from violence and discrimination for women in all their diversity and throughout their life cycle;

8. *Promote* the elimination of legal and institutional obstacles in order to ensure women's effective access to prompt and expeditious justice and to end impunity, and ensure reparation and essential services in cases of violence, especially in the case of sexual violence;

9. *Also promote* universal access to and financing for comprehensive, accessible, affordable and good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity;

10. *Further promote* the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights in relation to: comprehensive sexual education and information; safe, good-quality abortion services, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation; contraception; integrated social health-care services; maternal mortality; sexual orientation and gender identity; universal and accessible services; disability and old age; eradication of child pregnancy; prevention of adolescent pregnancy and motherhood; sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; health emergencies; healthy maternity; and technological development; as well as different forms of family in accordance with national legislation;

11. *Promote* the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that contribute to healthy and active ageing, including the gender perspective, as well as the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and the development of health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

12. *Encourage* continued efforts to increase the representation of women, including women with disabilities, in the decision-making process to achieve parity democracy, with an intercultural and ethno-racial approach, strengthening the presence of women in all branches, levels and spheres of government, guarantee the protection of the rights of women participating in politics, women human rights defenders and women journalists, and condemn political violence;

13. *Foster* measures to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and recovery, as established in Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

14. *Take* effective measures to reduce pay gaps for reasons of gender, race, ethnicity, disability and age, ensure the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and urge the public and private sectors to take measures in this respect;

15. *Adopt* measures to ensure the promotion and effective protection of the human rights of all domestic workers, as established in Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization;

16. *Foster* good-quality, timely and comprehensive secular education, free of stereotypes, without exclusion, and promote a culture of equality between women and men to dismantle patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns, recognizing that the secular nature of States contributes to the elimination of discrimination against women and the guarantee of human rights and freedom of religion, belief, worship and thought;

17. *Recognize* the cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contribution of indigenous languages and the role played by indigenous women and girls in the conservation and revitalization of languages as a means of recognition and dignification of indigenous peoples;

18. *Promote* public policies that include affirmative action measures to foster educational participation, progression and completion by girls, adolescents and women in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including information and communications technologies and emerging and sustainable technologies;

19. *Encourage* women's labour participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, eliminating occupational segregation and ensuring decent work and wage equality, in particular in emerging sectors, including the digital economy, that are key to structural change with equality and the decarbonization of economies;

20. *Foster* the generation of new jobs and opportunities for women through public-private partnerships, especially in emerging sectors of the economy;

21. *Promote* the development of a digital market in Latin America and the Caribbean as a public good, through regulatory adaptation to promote policy coherence and the integration of digital infrastructure, strengthening women's capacities and their full participation in the digital ecosystem in the region;

22. *Foster* financial systems that enable women, especially those with fewer resources, to access and use a diversified range of good-quality, affordable savings and credit products and services, including microfinance and insurance, provide technical support for strengthening women's productive enterprises and foster policies on financial education that is accessible and relevant, particularly for indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women;

23. *Strengthen* policies and mechanisms for regulating digital financial technologies at all levels of government and coordination systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to develop standards on records, content and uses of data across countries and to ensure the individual's rights to privacy and to

personal data protection, and promote financial and digital education to ensure that women's financial inclusion is informed and fair;

24. *Implement* gender-sensitive countercyclical policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in key sectors, including the care economy;

25. *Measure* the multiplier effects of boosting the care economy in terms of women's labour market participation—including work associated with the traditional knowledge, art and culture of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women—, well-being, redistribution, economic growth and the macroeconomic impact of the care economy;

26. *Design* comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective that foster co-responsibility between men and women, the State, the market, families and the community, and include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services to meet the different care needs of the population, as part of social protection systems;

27. *Promote* measures, policies and programmes for the full engagement of boys, young men and men as strategic allies in achieving gender equality and in promoting and ensuring women's rights and their economic empowerment and autonomy, eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women, adolescents and girls, and foster policies for the equal sharing of domestic and care work between men and women;

28. *Also promote* a systemic change in the approach to migration to reduce the vulnerabilities of women in the migration cycle, and the adoption of cooperation agreements among countries of origin, transit, destination and return for migrant women, refugees and asylum-seekers, paying particular attention to displacement phenomena surrounding global care chains and their structural causes, and ensure human rights and decent working conditions, prevention and response to violence—especially sexual violence—and to people smuggling, and non-discriminatory access to health services and comprehensive social protection;

29. *Promote* the adoption of legislation on labour and taxation in order to operate in a coordinated manner at the regional level, avoiding harmful competition among countries, in order to prevent taxation, wage-cutting and gender inequalities being used as adjustment variables to increase exports and attract investment;

30. *Implement* policies and mechanisms to promote, strengthen and increase production and international trade, with a gender approach, as a pillar of countries' economic development, and pursue programmes to foster the creation of quality employment for women and female-led enterprise in international trade, conducting assessments of the impact on human rights of trade and investment policies and agreements from a gender equality perspective;

31. *Consider* the possibility of establishing a network between government and civil society representatives and businesswomen on practices and lessons learned on tackling gender gaps in the private sector, to contribute to women's empowerment and autonomy—particularly women heading small and medium-sized enterprises, with an emphasis on indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women and young businesswomen—and to reducing the feminization of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, fully respecting respect for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (2011);

32. *Advance* in building a gender, intersectional, intercultural and rights perspective into national policies and budgeted programmes on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening women's participation and the inclusion of gender equality in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction;

33. *Integrate* the gender perspective into national policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, recognizing its differentiated effects on women, adolescents and girls, as well as on other groups in vulnerable situations, promote climate action respecting, promoting and considering the respective obligations with regard to gender equality, through strengthened coordination between machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change, planning, energy and human rights, among others;

34. *Actively support* the participation of women's organizations and movements, including those of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women, in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on climate change mitigation and response and disaster risk management, and promote the protection of the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the indigenous and Afrodescendent women of Latin America and the Caribbean;

35. *Reaffirm* the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly feminist and women's organizations and movements and organizations of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, youth and women with disabilities, as well as human rights defenders, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, fostering the conditions for their participation, addressing cultural or linguistic barriers and identifying and pursuing sources of financing;

36. *Thank* the women's and feminist movements and organizations of the region for their continuous support for the regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements and organizations and commend the fund's first call for proposals, to be opened by the board of the fund to mark International Women's Day in March 2020;

37. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular advances in the measurement of femicide or feminicide, total work time and women's participation in local government, and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

38. *Strengthen* the production of gender statistics at the national level and acknowledge the technical assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for national gender equality observatories, which facilitates data comparability and the construction of time series;

39. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for advancing in the implementation of the measures contained in the Montevideo Strategy and of the commitments undertaken at this session of the Regional Conference;

40. *Report* voluntarily at the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on progress in the implementation of this Commitment as part of the Regional Gender Agenda and the measures of the Montevideo Strategy;

41. *Urge* the developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, and to cooperate in capacity-building with a view to accelerating the application of the Montevideo Strategy and the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

42. *Welcome* the organization of the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and co-chaired by Mexico and France, as a global intersectoral and intergenerational gathering for gender equality led and partnered by civil society, which will begin in Mexico City on 7 and 8 May 2020 and continue in Paris from 7 to 10 July 2020, and urge all the countries of the region to participate in an active and committed manner in that Forum process and to resolutely support the participation of individuals from their respective civil societies;

43. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the organization at this session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of high-level panels on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a regional space for discussion and construction of the gender equality agenda prior to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and request the Chair of the Regional Conference to convey the outcomes of this meeting at that session;

44. *Thank* the civil society organizations for their participation in the discussion on women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios, for their presence at this session of the Conference and for their commitment to the rights and autonomy of women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

45. *Also thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their contribution to the organization of this session of the Conference;

46. *Acknowledge* the Government of Uruguay for its leadership as Chair of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and thank, in particular, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute of the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, for her commitment and work in support of the rights and autonomy of the women of Latin America and the Caribbean;

47. *Further thank* the Government of Chile for hosting the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

48. *Welcome* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference, to begin the preparatory work for the session of the Conference to be held in 2022.

## Annex 2

**EXPLANATION OF THE VOTING POSITION OF BRAZIL<sup>1</sup>**

Nº 055

A Embaixada da República Federativa do Brasil cumprimenta a Comissão Econômica para a América Latina e o Caribe (CEPAL) e tem a honra de referir-se à XIV Conferência Regional sobre a Mulher da América Latina e o Caribe, realizada em Santiago, de 27 a 31 de janeiro de 2020, para apresentar a seguinte explicação de posição do Brasil.

2. O Brasil tem compromisso de Estado com a proteção dos direitos humanos. O governo brasileiro está decidido a trabalhar pela erradicação da violência contra as mulheres e apoia firmemente as medidas tomadas pelos países latino-americanos e caribenhos no sentido de promover e assegurar a igualdade de direitos das mulheres e eliminar todas as formas de discriminação contra mulheres e meninas. Não obstante, o Brasil não está entre os participantes da Conferência que aprovaram o Compromisso de Santiago, por não estar de acordo com muitas de suas disposições.

A Embaixada da República Federativa do Brasil aproveita a oportunidade para renovar à Comissão Econômica para a América Latina e o Caribe (CEPAL) a expressão de sua mais alta estima e consideração.

Santiago, em 31 de janeiro de 2020.



<sup>1</sup> This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

**COURTESY TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT**

“No. 055

The Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil presents its compliments to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and has the honour to refer to the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 27 to 31 January 2020, to present the following explanation of Brazil’s position.

2. Brazil has a State commitment to the protection of human rights. The Government of Brazil is determined to work to eradicate violence against women and strongly supports the measures taken by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to promote and ensure equal rights for women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. However, Brazil is not among the Conference participants who adopted the Santiago Commitment, as it does not agree with many of its provisions.

The Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil avails itself of the opportunity to reiterate to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the assurances of its highest esteem and consideration.

Santiago, 31 January 2020”

Annex 3

**EXPLANATION OF THE VOTING POSITION OF CANADA**

**Courtesy translation of the covering letter of the explanatory note, provided by the secretariat**

“Embassy of Canada    Ambassade du Canada

E/A 023

The Embassy of Canada presents its compliments to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and has the honour to request that some explanatory notes be included in the official record of the Santiago Commitment, a document adopted at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (January 27–31, 2020).

Please find on the following pages the explanatory notes in English, as well as their respective translation into Spanish, since the Commitment was adopted in both languages.

The Embassy of Canada avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Ambassade du Canada - Embassy of Canada  
Santiago

Santiago, 28 April 2020”



Embassy of Canada



Ambassade du Canada

E/A 023

La Embajada de Canadá saluda muy atentamente a la Comisión Económica para América Latina – CEPAL- y tiene el honor de solicitar que se integren unas notas explicativas en el registro oficial del Compromiso de Santiago, documento acordado en el contexto de la 14ª Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de Latinoamérica y del Caribe (enero 27-31, 2020).

En las páginas siguientes encontrarán las notas explicativas en inglés, como también su respectiva traducción al español, ya que el Compromiso fue acordado en ambos idiomas.

La Embajada de Canadá hace propicia la ocasión para expresar a la Comisión Económica para América Latina – CEPAL- las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.



Santiago, 28 de abril de 2020

**Canada**

**Explanatory Notes from Canada to the Santiago Commitment adopted by ECLAC member States on January 31, 2020**

Canada acknowledges with appreciation the contribution of all member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Santiago, Chile, from January 28-31, 2020.

Canada is pleased to support the regional consensus on the Santiago Commitment. We recognize its importance for our Latin American and Caribbean partners, and to their work in advancing gender equality and women and girls' empowerment on the basis of the broadest possible regional consensus.

Advancing gender equality both in Canada and around the world remains one of the Government of Canada's most important priorities. Canada continues to advocate strongly for the recognition of women's rights as human rights so that all women and girls can be leaders in their families, communities, and countries.

Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls to meaningfully participate in all aspects of economic, social and political realms helps build a better world as envisioned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality leads to important benefits for all: it increases economic prosperity, leads to greater health and happiness, promotes peace and security, and upholds fairness and justice in our societies. Each of us deserves the opportunity to reach our full potential.

Within this context, Canada would like to reiterate the following clarifications regarding the Santiago Commitment as they apply to its specific situation, and requests that they be placed on the official records:

- Canada wishes to note its strong preference for the use of "respect, promote, and protect" when referencing human rights in the Santiago Commitment. International human rights law sets out the basic protections to which all individuals are entitled. All countries have a duty to promote and protect human rights under international law and must adopt measures towards ensuring their fulfillment and protection. This applies in particular to paragraphs 12, 15, and 16.
- Canada also wishes to note that the shared responsibilities in federated States should be taken into account by ECLAC Member States. Under the Constitution of Canada, some issues addressed in the Santiago Commitment, such as health, education, and employment, are areas of shared jurisdiction in Canada. Provincial and territorial governments have primary responsibility for administering these services. These jurisdictional competencies must be recognized in relation to several paragraphs in the Santiago Commitment, in particular paragraphs 16 (which specifically references "secular education"), 23 and 26.

We look forward to continuing to engage with our partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to accelerate progress on gender equality.

**Notas explicativas de Canadá al Compromiso de Santiago adoptado por los Estados miembros de la CEPAL el 31 de enero de 2020**

Canadá reconoce con agradecimiento la contribución de todos los Estados Miembros de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe que participaron en la XIV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Santiago, Chile, del 28 al 31 de enero de 2020.

Canadá se complace en apoyar el consenso regional sobre el Compromiso de Santiago. Reconocemos su importancia para nuestros socios de América Latina y el Caribe y su labor en la promoción de la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas sobre la base del consenso regional más amplio posible.

El fomento de la igualdad entre los géneros, tanto en Canadá como en todo el mundo, sigue siendo una de las prioridades más importantes del Gobierno del Canadá. Canadá sigue abogando firmemente por el reconocimiento de los derechos de la mujer como derechos humanos para que todas las mujeres y niñas puedan ser líderes en sus familias, comunidades y países.

El logro de la igualdad entre los géneros y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y las niñas para que participen de manera significativa en todos los aspectos de los ámbitos económicos, sociales y políticos contribuye a construir un mundo mejor, tal como se prevé en los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible de las Naciones Unidas. La igualdad entre los géneros conlleva importantes beneficios para todos: aumenta la prosperidad económica, conduce a una mayor salud y felicidad, promueve la paz y la seguridad, y defiende la equidad y la justicia en nuestras sociedades. Cada uno de nosotros merece la oportunidad de alcanzar nuestro pleno potencial.

En este contexto, Canadá desea reiterar las siguientes clarificaciones sobre el Compromiso de Santiago en lo que se aplican a su situación específica, y solicita que se incluyan en los registros oficiales:

- Canadá desea señalar su firme preferencia por el uso de la expresión "respetar, promover y proteger" al referirse a los derechos humanos en el Compromiso de Santiago. Las normas internacionales de derechos humanos establecen las protecciones básicas a las que tienen derecho todas las personas. Todos los países tienen el deber de promover y proteger los derechos humanos en virtud del derecho internacional y deben adoptar medidas para garantizar su cumplimiento y protección. Esto se aplica en particular a los párrafos 12, 15 y 16.
- Canadá también desea señalar que los Estados miembros de la CEPAL deberían tener en cuenta las responsabilidades compartidas en los Estados federados. En virtud de la Constitución de Canadá, algunos aspectos abordados

en el Compromiso de Santiago, como las relativas a la salud, la educación y el empleo, son esferas de jurisdicción compartida en Canadá. Los gobiernos provinciales y territoriales son los principales responsables de la administración de esos servicios. Estas competencias jurisdiccionales deben reconocerse en relación con varios párrafos del Compromiso de Santiago, en particular los párrafos 16 (que se refiere específicamente a la "educación laica"), 23 y 26.

Esperamos seguir colaborando con nuestros socios de América Latina y el Caribe para acelerar el progreso en materia de igualdad entre los géneros.

## Annex 4

**CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION<sup>1</sup>****Insistimos, Resistimos y Avanzamos**

Beijing cumple 25 años, la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial de las Mujeres no fue una Conferencia más, llegamos a ella con la experiencia acumulada y los incuestionables avances previos, en particular la Conferencia de Viena, en la cual por primera vez los derechos de las mujeres se reconocieron como derechos humanos, y en la Conferencia de El Cairo, en la que los derechos reproductivos se instalaron, dejando abierta la puerta para los derechos sexuales. Y aquí estamos, 25 años después e **INSISTIMOS** en:

Ratificar la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing, así como las agendas de CEDAW, Río, Viena, Cairo y Durban como hojas de ruta, reivindicando el papel que hemos jugado los movimientos de mujeres y feministas en la construcción y sostenimiento de estas agendas y llamando a estados, gobiernos y a diversos actores sociales a sumarse con nosotras en el reconocimiento de la igualdad como bien y horizonte de la humanidad.

Las organizaciones feministas y de mujeres manifestamos nuestra preocupación por el contexto económico y político en la región y en el mundo. Se trata de un sistema económico depredador, estructuralmente extractivista, no sólo de la naturaleza sino también del trabajo (remunerado y no remunerado), de los tiempos, de los territorios, de los recursos naturales y de los cuerpos.

Los actuales patrones de extractivismo, producción y consumo resultan incompatibles con la sostenibilidad de la vida. Esto se expone en las resistencias sociales en la región, con una presencia activa de los feminismos, en articulación con movimientos sociales que luchan por la justicia racial, étnica, generacional, económica y de género, quienes levantamos la voz para enfrentar la mercantilización de la vida.

Por ello, **RESISTIMOS** y reivindicamos el derecho a la protesta social, la cual no debe criminalizarse; rechazamos que, por oponernos a los mega proyectos, se pretenda responsabilizarnos por las insuficiencias en el desarrollo socioeconómico. No permitiremos que el extractivismo le haga a nuestras tierras y territorios, lo que el patriarcado le hace a nuestros cuerpos y por ello reivindicamos nuestra organización creciente, desde las organizaciones de base, campesinas, comunitarias, indígenas, migrantes, jóvenes, afrodescendientes, sindicalistas y de mujeres urbanas y rurales que resistimos y desafiamos las barreras lingüísticas y las desigualdades estructurales que reproducen condiciones de vida precaria y pobreza extrema.

Estamos acostumbradas a repetir que América Latina y el Caribe es la región más desigual del mundo y ahora vamos a acostumbrarnos a decir que somos también la región con el feminismo más potente y movilizador del planeta.

Nuestro permanente activismo, resistencia y defensa de derechos, se expresan en el marco de Estados y democracias debilitadas y frágiles, en donde se instalan conservadurismos capaces de criminalizar y reprimir de la protesta social. Defender derechos humanos, el territorio y ejercer el periodismo, se han convertido en actividades de alto riesgo. **Aún en este contexto de violencia de estado, nosotras resistimos.**

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<sup>1</sup> This declaration is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.



Nos encontramos en un momento de disputa cultural, en donde la igualdad de género enfrenta evidentes riesgos de retroceso ante la poderosa articulación de un patriarcado capitalista, misógino, lesbotranshomofóbico, racista y colonial, que se expresa en fundamentalismos religiosos, políticos, económicos y culturales. Ahora más que nunca reivindicamos el estado laico, como el marco para el avance de los derechos humanos de las mujeres y las niñas.

En este contexto, ratificamos nuestra posición de que la democracia -sin discriminación, ni exclusión alguna- es una condición básica para el ejercicio de la ciudadanía y de los derechos humanos, por eso es fundamental asegurar las condiciones que posibiliten la participación de la sociedad civil, particularmente de las organizaciones feministas y de mujeres.

### **Seguiremos AVANZANDO**

Desde la aprobación de la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing hemos avanzado, sin embargo lo logrado es poco y los retos permanecen y demandan la articulación estado, sociedad civil, organismos multilaterales y otros. Por ello:

Exigimos a los Estados que los compromisos se transformen en acciones concretas a favor de la igualdad y los derechos de las mujeres que cuenten con la asignación de recursos presupuestarios suficientes para avanzar las políticas necesarias, con mecanismos progresivos que garanticen la redistribución del ingreso y la riqueza.

Exigimos aborto legal, seguro, libre y gratuito en toda la región, su penalización y obstaculización deben ser tipificadas como violencias de estado porque los derechos sexuales y los derechos reproductivos son derechos humanos.

Exigimos que el cuerpo de las mujeres deje de ser territorio de conquista para los represores; alto a toda forma de represión incluido el uso de la violencia sexual como herramienta de control policial y militar en medio de las crisis en nuestros países, en particular por las recientes agresiones a las chilenas y nicaragüenses o las respuestas en diversos países ante las crisis migratorias.

Exigimos que los Estados rindan cuentas sobre el cumplimiento de sus obligaciones internacionales y las recomendaciones de los órganos de derechos humanos, con los que se han comprometido.

Insistimos en que se entienda de una vez por todas que, una paz sin las mujeres no es sostenible ni sustentable, y que sin justicia restaurativa, no hay posibilidad de construir sociedades pacíficas.

Instamos a los Estados a garantizar que la participación política de las mujeres, lesbianas, travestis, bisexuales, personas trans y no binaries, se ejerza sin temor a represalias y violencia, para lo que es necesaria una institucionalidad que garantice el acceso a la justicia, para que todas las mujeres -particularmente las afrodescendientes e indígenas- participemos en la gobernanza de los Estados de forma paritaria.

Convocamos a los gobiernos a reconocer que los modelos de desarrollo contruidos sobre la explotación, limitan las posibilidades de autonomía económica de las mujeres, tanto más de las niñas, mujeres indígenas, afrodescendientes, jóvenes, migrantes, trabajadoras, incluidas las trabajadoras sexuales, de las disidencias sexo genéricas, con discapacidades, y que viven con VIH.

Instamos a eliminar el racismo y la xenofobia institucionales, estableciendo políticas con perspectiva interseccional de atención y apoyo en los servicios públicos y los programas de protección social para las mujeres y niñas negras, migrantes e indígenas, y otras que sufren discriminación por motivos de raza o etnia.

Exigimos atención inmediata al cambio climático y sus afectaciones en toda la región con énfasis en El Caribe.

Exhortamos a los Estados a adoptar las medidas necesarias para eliminar los nudos de reproducción de la desigualdad económica, garantizando el acceso a empleos dignos, remunerados y de calidad, a la seguridad y soberanía alimentaria, a una vida libre de acoso y discriminación en el deporte, a promover una organización del cuidado socialmente responsable, universalizando la protección social, el acceso a servicios públicos de calidad, el acceso a la educación, incluida la Educación Integral de la Sexualidad, la salud y la infraestructura social en todos sus niveles.

Exigimos avanzar de forma inmediata en la erradicación de todas las formas de violencia contra las mujeres, particularmente el feminicidio y las prácticas nocivas, por lo que exigimos que, la violencia sexual, las uniones, matrimonios y embarazos forzados en niñas y adolescentes no sigan ocurriendo. Garantizar una vida libre de violencia es una tarea impostergable.

Exigimos atención inmediata a la discriminación, violencia y acoso que enfrentan las mujeres en el mundo del trabajo, en particular las periodistas, porque la transformación de los medios y la comunicación digital y sus abordajes sexistas es necesaria para la transformación cultural a la que aspiramos.

Beijing sigue siendo nuestra agenda y exigimos su cumplimiento sin reducciones ni simplificaciones. Hoy los Estados afirman que “no quieren dejar nadie atrás” **somos nosotras quienes no aceptamos ningún retroceso y no vamos a permitir que nos dejen atrás.**

¡Nada sobre nosotras, sin nosotras!

## COURTESY TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

### “We insist, we resist and we persist

Twenty-five years have passed since Beijing, the Fourth World Conference on Women that was not just another conference: we arrived with our cumulative experience and firm in the belief that progress had already been made, particularly at the Vienna Conference where women’s rights had for the first time been recognized as human rights, and at the Cairo Conference, where the establishment of reproductive rights had opened the door to sexual rights. And here we are, 25 years later, and **we INSIST** that:

The Beijing Platform for Action must be ratified, and the agendas of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the conferences in Rio, Vienna, Cairo and Durban must serve as road maps. We affirm the role that women’s and feminist movements have played in building and sustaining these agendas and we call on States, governments and other social stakeholders to join us in recognizing equality as a common good and a goal for humanity. As feminist and women’s organizations, we express our concern at the economic and political conditions in the region and around the world. The structurally extractivist economic system plunders not only the environment but also work (paid and unpaid), time, territory, natural resources and the human body.

Current patterns of extraction, production and consumption are incompatible with the sustainability of life. This is evident in the manifestations of social resistance in the region, in the active presence of feminist movements alongside social movements that fight for racial, ethnic, generational, economic and gender justice, as we raise our voices against the commodification of life.

Therefore, **we RESIST**. We demand the right to protest, which should not be criminalized; we reject the claim that our opposition to mega-projects means that we are to blame for lagging socioeconomic development. We will not allow extractivism to do to our lands and territories what patriarchy does to our bodies. That is why we call on our growing organization —comprised of grassroots, campesino, community, indigenous, migrant, youth, Afro-descendant, trade union and urban and rural women’s organizations— to resist and to challenge the language barriers and structural inequalities that perpetuate precarious living conditions and extreme poverty.

It is often repeated that Latin America and the Caribbean is the most unequal region in the world; from now on we can say that we are the region with the most powerful and mobilizing feminist movement on the planet. Our constant activism, resistance and defence of rights are expressed in weakened and fragile States and democracies, where conservatism that criminalizes and represses protest has taken hold. The defence of human rights and territory and journalism have become high-risk activities. Yet, even in face of State violence, we resist.

We stand at the crossroads of a cultural conflict, where gender equality is at clear risk of being eroded by the powerful combination of capitalism, misogyny, homo-lesbo-trans-phobia, racism and colonialism in the patriarchy, expressed in religious, political, economic and cultural fundamentalism. Now more than ever we demand a secular State as the framework for advancing the human rights of women and girls. In this regard, we reiterate our position that democracy —without discrimination or exclusion— is a prerequisite for the exercise of citizenship and human rights, hence the need to guarantee the conditions enabling the participation of civil society, particularly feminist and women’s organizations.

We will **PERSIST**



Little progress has been made since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and challenges remain, which demands coordination between the State, civil society, multilateral organizations and others. We therefore:

Urge States to translate their commitments into concrete actions in favour of equality and women's rights, allocating sufficient budgetary resources to advance the necessary policies, with progressive mechanisms that ensure the redistribution of income and wealth. Demand legal, safe, free and unrestricted abortion throughout the region. The criminalization and obstruction of abortion is State violence that must be declared punishable by law, as sexual and reproductive rights are human rights.

Demand an end the use of women's bodies as conquest by repressors and an end to all forms of repression, including the use of sexual violence as a means of police and military control in times of conflict in our countries, as seen in recent assaults against Chilean and Nicaraguan women and in the responses of several countries to migration crises.

Demand that States be held accountable for compliance with their international obligations and the recommendations of the relevant human rights treaty bodies.

Call on the international community to understand once and for all that without women peace, is not sustainable and that without restorative justice, there is no hope of building peaceful societies.

Urge States to guarantee the political participation of women, lesbians, transvestites, bisexuals, trans persons and non-binary persons without fear of reprisals and violence, which requires an institutional framework that ensures access to justice so that all women —particularly women of African descent and indigenous women— can be involved in the governance of States on an equal footing.

Invite governments to recognize that development models built on spoliation limit the possibilities for women's economic autonomy, which is especially the case for girls, indigenous women, women of African descent, young women, migrants, workers, including sex workers, sexual and gender dissidents, persons with disabilities, and people living with HIV.

Call for the elimination of institutional racism and xenophobia, by establishing policies with an intersectoral approach to care and support in public services and social protection programmes for black, migrant and indigenous women and girls, and other women who are discriminated against on the basis of race or ethnicity.

Demand immediate attention be given to climate change and its effects throughout the region, with emphasis on the Caribbean.

Urge States to adopt the necessary measures to eliminate the obstacles that perpetuate economic inequality and guarantee access to decent, paid, quality work; food security and sovereignty; and a life free of harassment and discrimination in sport; and to foster a care system that is socially co-responsible, with universal social protection, access to quality public services and access to education, including comprehensive sexuality education, health and social infrastructure at all levels.

We call for immediate progress in the eradication of all forms of violence against women, particularly femicide and harmful practices, and we therefore demand the cessation of sexual violence, forced marriages, unions and pregnancies to which girls and adolescents are subjected. Ensuring a life free of violence is a matter of urgency.

Demand immediate action to address the discrimination, violence and harassment that women face in the workplace, and especially women journalists, as the cultural shift we aspire to cannot be achieved without a transformation in digital media and communication and the sexism therein.

We continue to be guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and we demand that they be implemented in full and without any simplifications. Today, States say that they aim to “leave no one behind”, **but we are the ones who will not accept any reversal of progress and we will not allow them to leave us behind.**

Nothing about us without us!”

## Annex 5

## DECLARATION ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION<sup>1</sup>

### Declaración de las Juventudes Feministas Latinoamericanas y del Caribe

Sesenta y cuatro mujeres, niñas, adolescentes y jóvenes; activistas de 24 países; representantes de las personas jóvenes feministas, afrodescendientes, indígenas, con discapacidad, migrantes, refugiadas, lesbianas, bisexuales, trans, no binaries, y de otras identidades, trabajadoras sexuales, con VIH, de zonas rurales, campesinas, urbanas, vulnerabilizadas y violentadas de América Latina y el Caribe; reunidas en Santiago de Chile del 25 al 28 de enero de 2020, en el marco de la Consulta Regional Juvenil de la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing+25, estamos aquí para hacer escuchar nuestra voz.

Nos dirigimos a los Estados, organismos internacionales, sociedad civil, academia y sector privado para que nuestras demandas sean tomadas en cuenta y se comprometan a materializar nuestros derechos humanos en: acceso a educación de calidad, laica, gratuita e intercultural en todos los niveles; ejercicio libre de nuestra sexualidad con autonomía física y Educación Sexual Integral; una vida libre de violencias y discriminación; participación política; respeto a las tierras, territorios y recursos naturales de los pueblos indígenas; no criminalización a las personas defensoras de derechos humanos; derechos laborales; y acceso a servicios de salud integral de calidad, gratuitos y con perspectiva intercultural poniendo especial atención a la salud mental; que se reconozca nuestra capacidad de agencia y liderazgo, y considerando nuestras particularidades identitarias.

A 25 años de la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing, el contexto global ha cambiado y las problemáticas se han complejizado. El estallido de la crisis climática y la revolución digital que se extiende de manera exponencial, cambian por completo la situación de vida a nivel regional y la forma de relacionarnos entre nosotras y con el planeta, instaurando nuevas preocupaciones y otorgándose la oportunidad de evolucionar como comunidad.

En relación a la **violencia de género**, evidenciamos la falta de perspectiva de género e interculturalidad de las instituciones encargadas de la procuración e impartición de justicia, teniendo como consecuencia la re-victimización y violencia institucional que dificultan el acceso a los derechos, en especial en niñas, personas LGBTIQ+, afrodescendientes e indígenas; así como la ausencia de leyes de protección y protocolos; y la falta de programas de prevención que deconstruyan los mandatos sociales y culturales, para así asegurar la vida digna y segura para niñas y jóvenes. Es alarmante la violencia sexual que viven las niñas, jóvenes y mujeres de la región, con altas cifras de feminicidios y transfeminicidios, que impacta aún más a migrantes y refugiadas. Además, la violencia de género se ve acrecentada por la pobreza.

En el ámbito **económico**, convergen problemáticas de género, raza, y clase en el aumento de la pobreza, hay una gran brecha salarial entre hombres y mujeres, discriminación y barreras que les impiden el ascenso o desarrollo en cargos directivos o gerenciales; falta de políticas públicas de redes de cuidado para posibilitar el desarrollo laboral de quienes ejercen actividades de cuidado y domésticas no remuneradas; todo lo anterior afecta aún más a personas jóvenes indígenas, afrodescendientes, migrantes, refugiadas, lesbianas, bisexuales, trans, travestis, no binaries, con discapacidad, entre otras.

Las juventudes estamos desplazadas y precarizadas en las políticas de **empleo**, y muchas veces no hemos sido consideradas nuestras labores de cuidados en el hogar que impiden

<sup>1</sup> This declaration is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

nuestro desarrollo profesional, familiar y social, y sin seguridad ni protección social. Condenamos el extractivismo y proponemos un modelo de producción que considera además a las mujeres, adolescentes y niñas que viven dentro de las zonas más críticas, por último, existe una serie de trabajos no remunerados o no reconocidos, que obligan a las mujeres a vivir de forma aún más precarizada.

En cuanto a **Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos**, la mayoría de países de nuestra región no tiene Educación Integral en Sexualidad en instituciones educativas, y de existir es deficiente en el abordaje con infancias, adolescencias y derechos humanos y desde una perspectiva sólo reproductiva. Las personas jóvenes, sobre todo las pertenecientes a grupos históricamente vulnerados, se ven aún más violentadas al no contar con servicios de salud de calidad, acceso a métodos anticonceptivos, métodos de barrera en prevención de VIH e ITS. Además, la criminalización del aborto violenta la autonomía física de las mujeres, niñas y adolescentes. La perpetuación de los matrimonios y uniones tempranas y forzadas, así como los embarazos en adolescentes y embarazos infantiles forzados, son una forma de violencia que atenta contra nuestro pleno desarrollo en la sociedad. Estas circunstancias se ven especialmente comprometidas ante el auge de movimientos conservadores y antiderechos que no sólo frenan el desarrollo sino que pretenden hacer retroceder en los derechos ya ganados. Como juventudes no daremos ningún paso atrás en nuestra autonomía.

En el campo de la **justicia climática**, nos preocupa la poca participación de mujeres y juventudes en la toma de decisiones, lo cual intensifica el ineficaz cumplimiento de leyes, políticas públicas, inversiones y proyectos verdes para la sostenibilidad y sustentabilidad del planeta. También, identificamos la escasa formación a docentes en educación ambiental, economía circular y sistema B, en especial en zonas vulnerabilizadas, comunidades indígenas o periféricas, que han sido las principales afectadas por la crisis climática.

En relación a la **participación y liderazgo**, un gran obstáculo es que en algunos países de la región aún no existe la paridad de género en los cargos públicos, políticos y sociales. No tenemos escaños reservados para la comunidad LGBTQI+, indígenas, afrodescendientes, personas con discapacidad y mujeres pertenecientes a grupos vulnerados. Sumado a esto, la participación política de niñas, adolescentes y jóvenes en espacios de tomas de decisiones es prácticamente nula. La discriminación limita la representación de los grupos e identidades mencionadas. En nuestros países, la criminalización del derecho a la protesta dificulta la participación y decisión de las niñas, adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes, en espacios públicos, políticos y sociales.

En cuanto a **educación y formación**, falta la promoción de participación de niñas, jóvenes y mujeres en todos los campos del conocimiento, en especial en tecnología e innovación, y las carreras STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas). Además, son necesarias mayores medidas gubernamentales para promover la educación científica y tecnológica pública con el fin de eliminar la educación sexista al interior de estos espacios. Se debe garantizar el acceso universal a una educación gratuita, de calidad y feminista con enfoque intercultural, comunitario, transfeminista y disidente, decolonial, inclusivo y de discapacidad, tanto en espacios formales como no formales. Por otro lado, el analfabetismo en nuestra

región sigue siendo una de las principales barreras en la reducción de la pobreza, en donde niñas, mujeres y jóvenes no tienen acceso a la educación debido al mandato de género en las labores domésticas y de cuidado no remuneradas.

Frente a esto, las juventudes latinoamericanas y del Caribe identificamos como desafíos prioritarios:

- Reconocer, incentivar y legitimar las diversas formas de ser desde una perspectiva integral de derechos humanos, construyendo procesos de cooperación y articulación que valoricen las diversidades de las personas y fomenten la equidad para todas.
- Articular acciones en conjunto entre Estados, ONGs, sociedad civil y sector privado, para el cuidado del medio ambiente de forma interseccional y sostenible; asegurando una producción y consumos sustentables, y garantizando la protección de las defensoras del territorio y los recursos naturales.

#### **Demandamos/exhortamos**

##### **A los Estados**

- Fiscalización, monitoreo y efectiva entrega presupuestaria en la implementación de las políticas públicas dirigidas a las juventudes.
- La implementación de las leyes y acuerdos internacionales firmados por los respectivos países en materia de juventudes e igualdad de género.
- Garantizar los derechos económicos para grupos estructuralmente vulnerabilizados, eliminando las brechas salariales, reconociendo los trabajos no remunerados, la explotación y precarización laboral; garantizando ingresos mínimos a madres solteras; financiando a emprendedoras; y reconociendo la economía del cuidado; a favor de un modelo económico inclusivo, sustentable, equitativo y solidario.
- Brindar las condiciones para fortalecer y asegurar nuestra incorporación al empleo digno, con atención a la sostenibilidad y dignificación del trabajo remunerado y no remunerado.
- Financiar las iniciativas de impacto social, económico y medioambiental liderados por las Juventudes Latinoamericanas y Caribeñas, garantizando, de manera interseccional, la participación de mujeres y jóvenes en toda su diversidad.
- Promulgar, fortalecer, e implementar, leyes antidiscriminación que protejan todas nuestras identidades; tipificando los femicidios, crímenes de lesboodio, homofobicos y transfobicos en los códigos penales de cada país.
- Implementar políticas y servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva de manera universal, desde la prevención frente al VIH e infecciones, y que incluyan el acceso efectivo al placer, la planificación familiar, la anticoncepción y la autonomía física.
- Garantizar el acceso universal a una educación gratuita, de calidad y con enfoque de género, interseccional, intercultural, comunitario, y disidente, decolonial, inclusivo y de discapacidad, tanto en espacios formales como no formales, haciendo hincapié en la Educación Sexual Integral y en materias tecnológicas y de innovación, fomentando la participación de mujeres y la capacitación del personal docente.
- Capacitar a profesionales de la salud en derechos sexuales y reproductivos;

- Despenalizar, desestigmatizar, legalizar y garantizar el acceso al aborto, de manera libre, gratuita y segura a todas las personas gestantes.
- Abordar la crisis climática con perspectiva de género, e impulsar acciones para el cuidado del medio ambiente de forma interseccional y sostenible, así como ratificar e implementar con urgencia el tratado de Escazú en todos los países de la región.
- Incentivar la participación política de las mujeres, jóvenes y grupos vulnerabilizados a través de espacios que promuevan la formación, empoderamiento y organización ciudadana, de manera inclusiva y no discriminatoria. En paralelo, se deben comprometer a los estados y tomadores de decisiones a establecer diálogos que garanticen la participación de forma efectiva, directa y descentralizada.
- Que ratifiquen la Convención para la Eliminación de todas de Discriminación contra las mujeres (CEDAW), Convención de derechos del niño, entre otros que impactan directamente en nuestro futuro.

A los Organismos internacionales del sistema de Naciones Unidas y los organismos de cooperación internacional les exigimos:

- Reconocer sus discursos y cosmovisiones eurocéntricas, colonizadoras y adultocentristas, garantizando la incorporación de discursos y prácticas diversificadas.
- Apoyar a la sociedad civil en la defensa de derechos humanos y derechos sexuales y reproductivos, brindando apoyo económico y político a través de proyectos vinculantes con continuidad, representatividad y democracia a nivel local, nacional y regional.
- Reconocer y rechazar categóricamente las violencia a líderes y lideresas sociales.
- Establecer procesos de formación para la incidencia en su mecanismo de Naciones Unidas especialmente a la niñez y juventud, desde un lugar real y no solo consultivo.

A sector privado

- Promover el respeto de los principios de derechos humanos en todas sus esferas, cumpliendo normas y acuerdos internacionales, especialmente en materias de género, derechos laborales, sustentabilidad y responsabilidad medioambiental y de personas indígenas, LGTTTBIQ+ y con discapacidad, entre otras. Asimismo, reconocer e implementar los normativas y políticas empresariales de acuerdo a los Derechos Humanos.
- Brindar financiamiento a los movimientos de niñas, adolescentes, mujeres jóvenes e identidades diversas sin imposiciones de agenda, y con autonomía para el ejercicio del presupuesto.
- Asegurar a los grupos vulnerabilizados el acceso a cargos directivos y las condiciones laborales dignas para el desarrollo pleno de quienes se desempeñen en esas áreas.
- Manejo responsable de las comunicaciones, no reproduciendo roles y estereotipos de género. Y desde otra perspectiva, promover campañas comunicacionales para

educar sobre la no reproducción de estereotipos de género y el manejo responsable de las comunicaciones.

- Dar enfoque a los fondos hacia las organizaciones que permitan mayor acceso a poblaciones vulnerables, rurales y desplazadas.
- Generar políticas de inserción laboral de mujeres con paridad, acabando con las brechas de género, empleo juvenil, sin precarización laboral, seguridad social y conforme a nuestra experiencia y desarrollo.

#### A la sociedad civil

- Una participación activa en los espacios de toma de decisiones, elaborando propuestas e iniciativas que representen las demandas de la sociedad, así como monitorear y hacer seguimiento de las políticas públicas.
- Que los niños, niñas y jóvenes tengan voz dentro de las agendas y puedan ser consultadas, consultados y consultados.
- Se debe Fortalecer y caracterizar organizaciones, de línea base respetando discursos y desmonopolizando los fondos.

#### A la academia

- Ser una herramienta interdisciplinaria de vinculación y acción social movilizand las agendas de derechos humanos.
- Que se incorpore en la planificación escolar una educación integral con perspectiva de género, sexualidad, diversidad, laicidad y con bases científicas.
- Que se garantice la participación e investigación de personas y mujeres, lesbianas, bisexuales, trans, travesties, no binarias, afrodescendientes, migrantes, indígenas, viviendo con VIH, con discapacidad y de contextos rurales.

### **COMPROMISOS**

Como Juventudes Feministas de Latinoamerica y el Caribe nos comprometemos a:

- Movilizar esta declaración en nuestros países con otras organizaciones de la sociedad civil, replicando y acercando toda la información, conocimientos y herramientas sobre esta consulta a nuestros pares.
- Apoyar activamente las luchas colectivas, respetando y valorando las diversidades, desde la unión, la contención y los diferentes espacios de lucha para fortalecer la participación de las juventudes en los procesos de participación local, nacional e internacional, y a incidir para que las demandas se conviertan en acciones concretas y eficaces.
- Realizar el monitoreo, control, seguimiento e incidencia en las legislaciones, políticas públicas y planes de acción de los países de modo que se garanticen los derechos de las juventudes en toda nuestra diversidad, con respeto a los acuerdos generados

en la "Consulta Regional de la Juventud hacia Beijing+25" a través de informes y reuniones a futuro, potenciando los temas de género a partir de la creación de redes entre mujeres; y a evaluar de aquí en adelante los avances y nuevos desafíos de acuerdo a los contextos futuros.

Somos el presente, el grito colectivo de una generación que lucha diariamente por un mundo más justo e igualitario, que exige terminar con las injusticias y que demanda a los Estados de la región su atención, compromiso y acción para el pleno goce de los derechos de las juventudes en toda nuestra diversidad.



**COURTESY TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT:**

*“Declaration by the Young Feminists of Latin American and the Caribbean*

We, sixty-four women, girls, adolescents and young women; activists from 24 countries; representatives of young feminists, Afrodescendants, indigenous people, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, lesbian, bisexual, trans and non-binary persons, persons with other identities, sex workers, people living with HIV, and people from rural, rural, urban, vulnerable and violent areas of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Santiago from 25 to 28 January 2020, as part of the Regional Youth Consultation on the 25-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to make our voice heard.

We address States, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector to make our demands heard and so that they commit to making our human rights a reality in: access to quality, secular, free and intercultural education at all levels; free exercise of our sexuality with bodily autonomy and comprehensive sexuality education; a life free of violence and discrimination; political participation; respect for the lands, territories and natural resources of indigenous peoples; non-criminalization of human rights defenders; labour rights; and access to quality, free, comprehensive health services, with an intercultural perspective, paying special attention to mental health; we also call for recognition of our capacity for agency and leadership, considering our distinct identities.

Twenty-five years have passed since the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted, the global context has changed, and problems have become more complex. The eruption of the climate crisis and the digital revolution that is spreading exponentially are completely changing the situation of life at the regional level and the way we relate to each other and with the planet, creating new concerns and giving us the opportunity to evolve as a community.

Regarding **gender violence**, we call attention to the lack of a gender perspective and interculturalism in the institutions that pursue and administer justice, resulting in re-victimization and institutional violence that hinders access to rights, especially for children, LGBTIQ+ people, Afrodescendants and indigenous people; the absence of protective laws and protocols; and the lack of prevention programmes that deconstruct social and cultural mandates, thus ensuring a dignified and safe life for girls and young women. The sexual violence experienced by girls, young women and women in the region is alarming, with high figures of femicide and trans-femicide, affecting migrants and refugees even more. In addition, gender-based violence is exacerbated by poverty.

In the **economic** sphere, problems related to gender, race, and class converge in increased poverty, with a large salary gap between men and women, discrimination, and barriers that exclude women from promotion or development in managerial or executive positions; there is a lack of public policies on care networks to enable the labour development of those engaged in unpaid care and domestic activities; all this has a greater impact on young indigenous, Afrodescendent, migrant, refugee, lesbian, bisexual, trans, transvestite and non-binary persons, and persons with disabilities, among other people.

Young people are sidelined and precarious in **employment** policies, our domestic care tasks that hamper professional, family and social development are often not considered, and we are left without social security or protection. We condemn extractivism and propose a model of production that also takes into account women, adolescents and girls living in the most critical areas. Lastly, there are a number of unpaid or unrecognized jobs that force women to live in an even more precarious manner.

Regarding **sexual and reproductive rights**, most countries in our region do not have comprehensive sexuality education in educational institutions, and if they do, it is deficient in dealing with children, adolescents and human rights, adopting a solely reproductive perspective. Young people, especially those belonging to historically vulnerable groups, are further violated by a lack of quality health services and access to birth control methods and barrier methods in the prevention of HIV and STIs. In addition, the criminalization of abortion violates the bodily autonomy of women, girls and adolescents. The perpetuation of early and forced marriages and unions, and of teenage and forced child pregnancies, is a form of violence that threatens our full development in society. These circumstances are particularly exacerbated by the rise of conservative and anti-rights movements that not only slow down development but also seek to roll back the rights already won. As young people we will not take any steps backwards with our autonomy.

In the field of **climate justice**, we are concerned by the limited participation of women and youth in decision-making, which amplifies the ineffective enforcement of laws, public policies, investments and green projects for the sustainability of the planet. We have also observed that there is inadequate training of teachers in environmental education, the circular economy and Sistema B, especially in vulnerable areas and indigenous or peripheral communities, which have been most affected by the climate crisis.

With regard to **participation and leadership**, a major obstacle is that in some countries of the region there is still no gender parity in public, political and social positions. There are no seats reserved for the LGBTIQ+ community, indigenous people, Afrodescendants, people with disabilities or women from vulnerable groups. In addition, there is almost no political participation by girls, adolescents and young people in decision-making spaces. Discrimination limits the representation of these groups and identities. In our countries, criminalization of the right to protest makes it difficult for girls, adolescents and young women to participate and make decisions in public, political and social spaces.

In terms of **education and training**, there is a lack of promotion of participation by girls, young women and women in all fields of knowledge, especially in technology and innovation, and STEM careers (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). In addition, greater government action is needed to promote public science and technology education, in order to eliminate sexist education in these fields. Universal access to free, quality, feminist education with an intercultural, community-based, transfeminist, dissenting, decolonial, inclusive approach that incorporates a disability perspective must be guaranteed in both formal and non-formal settings. Furthermore, illiteracy in our region remains one of the main barriers to reducing poverty, whereby girls, women and young women do not have access to education as a result of the gender mandate in unpaid domestic and care work.

In view of this, as the youth of Latin American and Caribbean we have identified the following priority challenges:

- Recognizing, fostering and legitimizing the different ways of being, from a comprehensive human rights perspective, formulating cooperation and interconnection processes that respect the diversities of people and promote equity for all.
- Coordinating joint actions between States, NGOs, civil society and the private sector, to care for the environment in an intersectional and sustainable way; ensuring sustainable production and consumption and guaranteeing protection of defenders of land and natural resources.

### **We call on/urge**

States:

- To effectively assign budgets and perform control and monitoring when implementing public policies aimed at youth.
- To implement the laws and international agreements signed by the respective countries on youth and gender equality.
- To guarantee economic rights for structurally vulnerable groups, eliminating wage gaps, recognizing unpaid work, exploitation and job insecurity; guaranteeing a minimum income for single mothers; financing women entrepreneurs; and recognizing the care economy; promoting an inclusive, sustainable, equitable and supportive economic model.
- To provide appropriate conditions to strengthen and ensure our entry into decent employment, paying attention to the sustainability and dignity of paid and unpaid work.
- To finance initiatives with social, economic and environmental impacts led by Latin American and Caribbean Youth, guaranteeing, in an intersectional way, the participation of women and youth in all their diversity.
- To enact, strengthen and implement anti-discrimination laws that protect all our identities; including femicide and lesbophobic, homophobic and transphobic crimes in the criminal codes of each country.
- To implement sexual and reproductive health policies and services universally, from prevention of HIV and infections, to effective access to pleasure, family planning, contraception and bodily autonomy.
- To guarantee universal access to free, quality education that is gender-responsive, intersectional, intercultural, community-based, dissenting, decolonial, inclusive and adopts a disability perspective, both in formal and non-formal settings, with emphasis on comprehensive sexuality education and on technological and innovative matters, promoting the participation of women and the training of teachers.
- To train health professionals in sexual and reproductive rights.
- To decriminalize, destigmatize, legalize and guarantee access to abortion, freely, free of charge and safely for all pregnant persons.

- To address the climate crisis with a gender perspective, fostering actions to care for the environment in an intersectional and sustainable manner, and to urgently ratify and implement the Escazú Treaty in all countries of the region.
- To encourage the political participation of women, young people and vulnerable groups through spaces that promote training, empowerment and citizen organization, in an inclusive and non-discriminatory manner. States and decision-makers must also commit to establishing dialogues that guarantee participation in an effective, direct and decentralized manner.
- To ratify agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which directly affect our future.

We call on the international organizations of the United Nations system and on international cooperation agencies:

- To recognize their Eurocentric, colonizing and adult-centred discourses and worldviews, ensuring that diversified discourses and practices are included.
- To support civil society in defending human rights and sexual and reproductive rights, providing economic and political support through binding projects with continuity, representation and democracy at the local, national and regional levels.
- To acknowledge and categorically reject violence against social leaders.
- To establish training processes for advocacy within the United Nations mechanism, especially for children and youth, from a real and not only consultative standpoint.

We call on the private sector:

- To promote respect for the principles of human rights in all spheres, complying with international norms and agreements, especially in the areas of gender, labour rights, environmental sustainability and accountability, and for indigenous, LGTTTBIQ+ and disabled persons, among others. Also, to recognize and implement business regulations and policies that are in accordance with human rights.
- To provide funding to movements for girls, adolescents, young women and people with diverse identities without imposing an agenda, and with autonomy to allocate the budget.
- To ensure that vulnerable groups have access to management positions and decent working conditions for the full development of those working at these levels.
- To responsibly manage communications, without propagating gender roles and stereotypes. Also, to promote communication campaigns to educate about not propagating gender stereotypes and about responsible management of communications.
- To focus funds on organizations that provide greater access to vulnerable, rural and displaced populations.
- To formulate policies for the labour market inclusion of women with parity —ending gender gaps—youth employment, without casualization of labour, with social security and according to our experience and development.

We call on civil society:

- To actively participate in decision-making spaces, formulating proposals and initiatives that represent society's demands, as well as monitoring and following up on public policies.
- To ensure that children and young people have a voice within agendas and can be consulted.
- To strengthen and delineate baseline organizations respecting discourses and de-monopolizing funds.

We call on academia:

- To be an interdisciplinary tool for networking and social action, mobilizing human rights agendas.
- To incorporate comprehensive education, with a gender, sexuality, diversity, and secular perspective and with a scientific basis into school planning.
- To ensure that there is research into women and lesbian, bisexual, trans, transvestite, non-binary, Afrodescendent, migrant and indigenous persons, persons living with HIV, persons with disabilities and persons from rural contexts, and to guarantee that these groups participate.

## COMMITMENTS

As Young Feminists of Latin America and the Caribbean we undertake to:

- Circulate this declaration in our countries with other civil society organizations, passing on and providing all the information, knowledge and tools about this consultation to our peers.
- Actively support collective struggles, respecting and valuing diversities, through union and effort and the different spaces of struggles to strengthen the participation of youth in local, national and international participation processes, and to lobby for demands to become specific and effective actions.
- Monitor, control, follow up and influence legislation, public policies and action plans in the countries so as to guarantee the rights of young people in all our diversity, with respect to the agreements produced in the "Regional Youth Consultation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards Beijing+25" through reports and future meetings, promoting gender issues by creating networks among women; and to evaluate future progress and challenges according to future contexts.

We are the present, the collective cry of a generation that fights daily for a fairer and more equal world, that demands an end to injustice, and that calls on the States of the region to be attentive, to commit themselves and to take action to ensure that we as youth can fully exercise our rights, in all our diversity."

## Annex 6

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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