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

Virtual meeting, 26-27 January 2022

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their sixty-second meeting virtually from 29 to 30 September 2022.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, 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 and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Dominica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and United Kingdom.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. From the United Nations Secretariat, the Development Coordination Office, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), resident coordinators and resident coordinator offices participated.

6. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were represented: 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), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and United Nations Volunteers.

7. Also represented were the following specialized agencies: World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

8. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), European Commission, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), EU-LAC Foundation, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Organization of American States (OAS), Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS) and Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

9. Also present were representatives of non-governmental organizations and other special guests.

¹ See annex 3.

Chair

10. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference, were as follows:

Chair: Chile

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

B. AGENDA

11. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean and on national initiatives.
3. Report on the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements.
4. Special session: regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
5. Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Other matters.
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. The opening session was addressed by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; and Mónica Zalaquett, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. After welcoming the participants, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that women had been on the front line of the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which had underscored how important care and equality were for the sustainability of life. The next meeting of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be a great opportunity to make progress with new political and social compacts that would enable structural change focused on equality and sustainability. She stressed the importance of moving towards becoming a care society, rather than returning to a normality that had engendered enormous inequality and poverty. The pandemic had had disproportionate impacts on women's labour-market participation and on the gender-based violence that continued to affect them. She recalled the commitments governments had made at the eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which had included a restatement of the importance of consolidating statistical institutions that would put equality at the heart of agendas and give visibility to unpaid work. The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) offered a pathway towards execution of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and towards the creation of a more egalitarian and sustainable model. Lastly, she thanked women's and feminist organizations, the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and UN-Women for their work and restated the commitment of ECLAC to moving towards fairer, more equal and more resilient economies and societies that put care at their heart.

14. Next, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women underscored the importance of a sustainable recovery and of building fairer and more egalitarian societies, in order to confront present and future challenges. She emphasized the need for women's inclusion in socioeconomic life, for comprehensive care systems and for access to technology and financial inclusion for all. She highlighted the progress made by the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean and by the Global Alliance for Care, as well as the publication of the report *Towards the Construction of Comprehensive Care Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: Elements for Implementation* by ECLAC and UN-Women. It was important to include women in policies and programmes relating to climate change, the environment and disaster risk reduction, issues on which the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women would focus. The region's vulnerability to climate change needed to be stressed, as did its disproportionate impact on women and girls. She thanked the ministers for their commitment to maintaining the regional consultation in preparation for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and called for the adoption of a regional declaration for that meeting. In addition, she particularly wished to thank the Executive Secretary of ECLAC for her crucial leadership in advancing the Regional Gender Agenda.

15. Lastly, the Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that a turning point had been reached in achieving a less unequal post-pandemic world. An innovative approach was needed to address the increased demand for care and the unequal distribution of care work. The care society would be essential to that end, as it would promote appreciation for care work; sharing of responsibility between the market, the State, communities and households; and the guaranteeing of the

rights of those providing and receiving care. In that connection, the next Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be an opportunity to reach agreements focused on accelerating the effective establishment of comprehensive, universal and sustainable care systems. Since ensuring women's economic autonomy remained a challenge, their digital skills needed to be developed. She underscored the importance of initiatives like the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean, the launch of the *Todas Conectadas* (All Women Connected) platform and other efforts by regional countries to close the digital gender divide.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

16. The Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

Report on the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean and on national initiatives (agenda item 2)

17. Presenting the report, Mónica Zalaquett, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that, although digital tools had been essential during the pandemic, their benefits had not reached everyone equally. The digital divide and poverty were continuing to limit women's economic opportunities. The Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean was promoting two policy areas: first, enhancing women's connectivity by means of national programmes, something on which countries such as Chile, Panama and Uruguay were already working, with technical support from ECLAC and UN-Women; and, second, using the *Todas Conectadas* platform to equip women with digital skills and to facilitate their access to economic opportunities. She thanked UN-Women and the governments and international organizations that had contributed resources. In conclusion, she called for governments' backing, with a view to driving forward an inclusive technological transformation.

18. In the ensuing discussion, the Minister for Social Development of Panama, María Inés Castillo de Sanmartín, reiterated the importance of closing gender divides in information and communication technology (ICT). Socioeconomic divides also existed between rural and urban areas. ICT had potential for advancing the Regional Gender Agenda; she mentioned some national initiatives promoting access to digital skills, such as the Digital Agenda 2020 and the *Infoplazas* (public-private partnerships offering ICT access, in particular in remote areas of Panama). The representative of Guyana said that her Government had taken measures to promote women's access to digital services, such as the free use of marketing and business applications for women entrepreneurs and training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, including programming. Women should, in addition to being users of such initiatives, also be included in their development.

19. The President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) of Mexico, Nadine Gasman, reaffirmed her country's commitment to the Alliance. In Mexico too, the digital divide had deepened in rural areas. Steps taken in her country included the business-skills training programme known as Women in the Digital Transformation. The Institute was also involved in executing the National Digital Strategy, which offered women digital skills courses free of charge. She emphasized the need to improve the connectivity of women and girls and to promote technologies that addressed online gender-based violence.

20. The Presidential Adviser for Women's Equity of Colombia, Gheidy Gallo Santos, said that her country had some noteworthy policies for promoting women's employability, labour-market participation and entrepreneurship. A tax reform focused on women had been carried out, with differentiated subsidies for job retention and creation. A gender-sensitive digital transformation policy was centred around the use and appropriation of technology and around closing gaps in STEM subjects. She mentioned programmes such as *Por TIC mujer* (a play on words meaning "ICT for you, woman" referencing the song *Por ti mujer*) and More Women, More Science, More Equality, which fell under that policy.

21. The Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, María Cristina Perceval, said that it should be underscored that equal access to emerging technologies made a key contribution to the development of digital public goods, as did access to digital and data governance with a feminist approach. Of the steps and measures taken by the Argentine authorities, the Centre for Genders in Technology (CGT) stood out, as did the Sowing Equality policy, focused on women and LGBTI+ people in rural settings. Other initiatives included partial grants for strategic careers in STEM disciplines and the *Todas Conectadas* platform.

22. The Minister for Women's Affairs of Paraguay, Celina Esther Lezcano Flores, said that the pandemic had accelerated the global digital transformation and that technology had proved one of the most valuable tools for driving socioeconomic development. She highlighted the work done in partnership with the private sector on initiatives to increase the benefits of the *Todas Conectadas* platform by reaching more women entrepreneurs.

23. The Director General for Strategic Areas of the National Women's Institute (INAMU) of Costa Rica, Ana Lorena Flores Salazar, said that closing gender gaps at all ages in ICT access, skill development and usage of ICT should be a priority. Work had been done with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Communications on drawing up a national gender-equality policy for training about science, technology, telecommunications and innovation and for using such training and benefiting from its results. She underscored that affirmative action, such as promoting careers in STEM fields for women and girls and bringing them into such careers would, in the long term, have an impact on the digital gender divide, in particular in respect of employability. In that connection, initiatives such as the *Todas Conectadas* platform played an especially important role.

24. The Deputy Head of the Bureau of Gender Affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Suriname, Shiefania Jahangier, reiterated the importance of facilitating access to technologies and of teaching digital skills. Basic knowledge and skills were taught in her country's programme for public officials, in particular its ICT modules. Efforts to encourage girls to embark on ICT careers included videos, articles and events, such as Girls in ICT Day. Moreover, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs would soon be starting to promote the teaching of ICT in schools. Next, the representative of Ecuador said that initiatives adopted in her country to close the digital divide included the Overcoming the Barriers to Digitalization initiative, which would promote the development of digital skills and activities for the benefit of girls and young women, with an emphasis on coding and other STEM fields. The Government had also proposed increasing the budget allocated to preventing violence against women.

25. The Lead Technical Secretary of the National Council for Gender Equality (CNIG) of Ecuador, Estefanía Ortiz Torres, said that her country's Ministry of Telecommunications and the Information Society had joined the Overcoming Barriers to Digital Inclusion: Americas Girls Can Code project, launched by the International Telecommunication Union. The initiative's objective was to promote the development of digital skills, in particular coding and other STEM-related activities; it was also intended to help girls, young women and women with disabilities to develop digital skills.

26. The Secretary-General of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), Teresa María Amarelle Boué, said that initiatives in Cuba included the policy for the computerization of society provided for in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development. Her country also had a technological intervention and social inclusion project called ICT Gender Equality on a Roll. She noted that the country's Minister for Communications was a woman and that, in addition, its foremost companies were led by women. It was important to execute local development strategies aimed at training women and enhancing their digital skills.

27. The Minister for the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia, Virginia Albert-Poyotte, said that her government was focused on providing low-income households with Internet access and schools with computers. In addition, the government was starting to offer technical vocational training and promoting girls' access to ICT.

28. The Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Marina Sande, said that, thanks to the educational inclusion policy launched by the over a decade previously, every child had a computer; nevertheless, it had not, in practice, been possible to achieve the target of universal digitalization. Her country faced several digitalization challenges: promoting gender-sensitive digital inclusion and cultural change in education, promoting digital inclusion and digital jobs in commerce and promoting a cultural change so that girls would choose careers in science and technology for their future working lives and women would choose such careers for their training. The National Gender Council (CNG) and the Inter-institutional Committee on Women in Science, Innovation and Technology (MIMCIT) promoted the inclusion of girls and adolescents in technological and scientific fields. She reaffirmed Uruguay's commitment to the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

29. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women, María-Noel Vaeza, stressed that gender equality in the STEM sector was crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, the *Todas Conectadas* initiative was a major opportunity to afford women access to education, connectivity and work opportunities and to establish partnerships. She recalled that, since new jobs were expected in areas such as renewable energy, the digital revolution and the bioeconomy, women needed to be encouraged to take up roles in all STEM sectors.

30. Reiterating the importance of the panel and of the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, Ana Güzemes García, said that promoting an inclusive digital transformation process was essential. That required giving women access to digital technologies by means of, for example, a basic ICT basket. It was also necessary to break down the socioeconomic barriers that women faced and improve their economic opportunities by enhancing their digital skills. In addition to universalizing digital access, it was also important to promote systematic and progressive participation in the digital ecosystem. ECLAC had helped governments with mainstreaming gender equality in science and technology innovation plans; she wished to reaffirm the Commission's commitment to such processes.

31. Lastly, the Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, Mónica Zalaquett, said that her country had taken on the challenge of leading the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality. Initiatives launched in Chile included the establishment of the country's first national policy for gender equality in science, technology, knowledge and innovation, which included over 30 specific steps towards achieving gender parity in that field by 2030. In addition, Chile had initiatives like Digital Woman, the purpose of which was to offer digital training tools through online courses, and Connected Women Entrepreneurs, a platform for connecting female entrepreneurs while giving them the opportunity to learn from their own experiences. The Minister, in her capacity as

Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, then closed the session, stressing the urgent need to work with the private sector, academia, international organizations and civil society on addressing the region's gender challenges in the field of technology.

Report on the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements
(agenda item 3)

32. Mónica Zalaquett, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, underscored the innovative and multisectoral nature of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, identifying it as an example of the spirit of cooperation needed in order to achieve truly transformative change. While the pandemic had delayed its establishment, significant steps forward had been taken since the previous meeting. The first call for proposals had been published in November 2021 and submissions would be chosen in the coming months. In addition, the Fund's website had been created and the financial contribution of Mexico had been formalized. She concluded by calling on relevant stakeholders to contribute funding to ensure its sustainability.

33. Nadine Gasman, President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) of Mexico, a donor country and member of the Fund's secretariat, presented an initiative that sought to reduce gender inequalities and strengthen democracy by supporting equality programmes and initiatives. She said that the initiative was supported by ECLAC and UN-Women, among other bodies. The Fund would contribute to execution of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and to the Santiago Commitment. Mexico had supported the Fund from the outset and had already contributed US\$ 150,000 in start-up capital, enabling publication of the first call for proposals. She called for funding to be contributed, with a view to making the Fund sustainable.

34. María Eugenia Romero, representative of the women's and feminist organizations and movements that formed part of the Board of Directors of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, gave a presentation on the process of establishing the Fund. She talked about some of the key moments, such as the adoption of the proposal, the definition of its structure and the appointment of UN-Women as its administrator. She explained who the representatives of the civil society organizations participating in the Fund's Board of Directors and secretariat were and outlined some of the progress that had been achieved. She shared the main communication products, including a logo, a leaflet and the website. She reported that the Fund's first call for proposals had been published, with 251 submissions received by the closing date. In conclusion, she called on governments to contribute funding to the Fund.

35. Cecilia Alemany, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women, recalling that her organization was the Fund's administrator, said that, while there had been 251 submissions in response to the Fund's first call for proposals, it had only been possible to support 18 of those, owing to lack of funding. Therefore, additional financial support was needed, since the first call for proposals had shown that demand far outstripped the available funding.

36. In the subsequent statements, the representative of Argentina said that her country hoped to follow the lead of Mexico and UN-Women in capitalizing the Fund. In her view, multilateral financial institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, should also contribute to the Fund.

Special session: regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (agenda item 4)

37. The special session was moderated by María Cristina Perceval, Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and representative of the country serving as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC). Expressing her support for the idea of amplifying the region's voice at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she reiterated the importance of cooperation and sisterhood between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Global trends in gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change and of environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

38. Introductory remarks were given by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; and Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN-Women.

39. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC reiterated the urgent need for disaster risk reduction, since the region was highly sensitive to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, by which women were hardest hit. Environmental defenders were in danger, seriously threatened by a development style based on extractivism. Despite the robust legal framework in place in the region in respect of gender equality and women's autonomy, it had not been possible to have a structural impact in terms of closing gender divides, which was noticeable in relation to funding, in particular for adaptation. She drew attention to the Escazú Agreement and underscored her commitment to access to information, to public participation and to access to justice. The session of the Commission on the Status of Women was an opportunity to make the region's voice heard at the global level. She reaffirmed the importance of moving away from the current development model and towards a care society, with particular recognition for indigenous women's contributions towards a resilient recovery.

40. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that the priority theme of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be "achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes". It was important to emphasize indigenous women's role in risk reduction, disaster mitigation and food security for their communities. Women's participation in decision-making, funding for gender equality and the coordination of work on the machineries for the advancement of women with ministries of the environment and of finance was particularly significant. She concluded by calling for support in the form of donations to the women's and feminist organizations that were on the front line of climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, of which the Fund was an example.

41. The Executive Director of UN-Women said that the session of the Commission on the Status of Women represented an opportunity to tackle interconnected subjects, such as the impact of the pandemic, poverty, violence and climate change. She called on national authorities to guarantee the provision of essential services for prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in contexts of climate disaster, for responses to such violence and for recovery following such violence. It was regrettable that, despite some progress, policies and regulations on climate change did not provide a coherent basis for gender-sensitive governance. Women's participation in and leadership of the management of natural resources was conducive to better governance. Indigenous women had made noteworthy contributions to conservation, adaptation and disaster risk mitigation. A cultural shift and changes in production and consumption patterns were necessary, as was increased funding, public and private. Women environmental defenders and organizations of environmental defenders were especially vulnerable to threats and acts of violence, so their

protection must be ensured. Particular attention must be paid to women and girls in less-developed countries and small island developing States, which were very vulnerable to the effects of climate change. She called on the delegations to continue making progress with the transformative regional agenda at the multilateral level and with preparations for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Lastly, she acknowledged the growing coordination between ECLAC and UN-Women, alongside the member States, on executing the Regional Gender Agenda.

42. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC highlighted the region's contributions to breaking the statistical silence by seeking to go beyond the measurement of gross domestic product, with disaggregated data and the measurement of unpaid work. The region was committed to women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy and it was working towards financial inclusion, the elimination of violence against women and a paradigm shift in respect of decision-making power. Women's inclusion in new technologies also had to be ensured, and she thanked the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean in that regard. She concluded by underscoring the importance of the care society: a society that cared for people, the planet, older persons and children.

Panel: Gender equality, women's autonomy and climate change policies

43. The panel on gender equality, women's autonomy and climate change policies was moderated by María Cristina Perceval, Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and as representative of the country serving as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC).

44. Lorena Aguilar, a specialist in gender equality and climate change and consultant with the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, presented the document *Women's Autonomy and Gender Equality at the Centre of Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Underscoring the link between the unequal impacts of climate change and inequality and persistent poverty against a backdrop of exclusionary and unsustainable growth in which patriarchal cultural patterns tended to exclude the knowledge of thousands of the region's women, she said that environmental crises were increasing the volume of domestic and care work. There were 87 gender mandates under the international regulatory framework for climate change. It should be stressed that several countries had gender and climate change strategies or gender-sensitive action plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The next two years were crucial, since the review of the second gender action plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had already begun.

45. She emphasized the need to promote the effective protection of women human rights defenders, by implementing the Escazú Agreement. In order to transition successfully to a development model in which balance with the planet was sought, it would be necessary to foster indigenous women's participation and to make women, adolescents and girls more resilient and adaptable in their responses to the adverse effects of climate change. She underscored the importance of an intersectional and intercultural approach in sources of administrative data relating to the environment and of fostering a system of national- and regional-level monitoring of the gender commitments included in the NDCs. It would be important to ask official delegations to include more women from the region and to promote innovative projects designed by and for women. There was a need to ensure that all funding related to climate change should incorporate requirements in respect of gender policies or action plans. She stressed that it was necessary to prioritize investment in the care economy and recognize the care sector as a driver of the wider economy.

46. In the discussions that followed, Fleur Newman, Action Empowerment Unit Lead and Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, said that the second gender action plan under the Convention had been crucial with regard to the presence of focal points in the States parties. The five priorities identified had enabled capacity-building; the generation of empirical data for mainstreaming gender into climate action; and the increased participation of girls and women in leadership roles. In the context of the NDCs, she noted that several countries were including information on gender. The *NDC Synthesis Report* included its own gender section, which represented a major step forward for transparency and a means for countries to draw inspiration from one another. Ensuring sufficient funding for gender to be mainstreamed into national plans and policies, as well as for their execution, remained a challenge. She also stressed the pandemic's negative impact on participation in women's and feminist organizations. It was important that the countries submit information on and contributions to the third gender action plan by 31 March. She underscored the importance of the machineries for the advancement of women and of organizations for addressing the climate change emergency.

47. Ayesha Constable, Founder of Young People for Action on Climate Change Jamaica, said that planning should recognize girls and young women and their differences and should promote active participation. The COVID-19 pandemic had been a trial run for climate change. She underscored the need to seek approaches that were more innovative, climate-sensitive and gender-just. Girls too should be included in the energy transition process. While girls were the face of climate activism in the Caribbean, there was no funding to support their membership of national delegations at events like the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She recommended supporting initiatives led by young people and improving young people's ICT access. The region should adopt an intersectional and inclusive approach to climate action that took into account the vulnerabilities and capabilities of young women and girls and that prioritized their needs.

48. Lastly, Marcela Guerrero, Minister for the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Women's Institute (INAMU) of Costa Rica and Co-leader of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice action coalition of the Generation Equality Forum said that there was a new paradigm that placed women in a far more equitable and egalitarian relationship compared with their role in the public sphere. Costa Rica was forging ahead, with proposals for the use of clean energy sources and with initiatives to electrify private vehicles and public transport. The energy transition would offer women a new opportunity to take up traditionally male-dominated roles and climate change's impact on infrastructure represented an opportunity to review land use and forms of mobility. If women from the territories were not included, progress with the transition to the new era would be impossible.

49. In the ensuing discussion, the President of the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) of Mexico, spotlighting the differentiated impact of climate change on rural and indigenous women, said that it was one of the reasons why, in Mexico, there was particular recognition of indigenous peoples' contributions to tackling climate change. Initiatives in the country included a workplan for the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the participation of youth negotiators in the delegation to the last Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the inclusion of environmental education in schools. She noted that indigenous women were very active in the country as defenders of their lands and territories. The task of including women as agents of change rather than mere recipients of State support remained unfinished. She therefore asked that it be incorporated into the declaration for the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in order to recognize their leadership and establish special roles for the participation of young, indigenous and Afrodescendent women.

50. The representative of Paraguay also shared some of her country's climate change initiatives. She said that the Ministry of Women was working with other institutions on designing public policies for rural women and was part of the REDD+ steering committee. Virtual workshops on the gender and intersectional perspective had been held for officials and women leaders had been given training. Of particular note were the "Indigenous Women and Use of Alternative Technologies in Communities: Eco-stoves" project and the establishment of the Gender Strategy in Response to Climate Change.

51. The representative of Peru said that her country's gender equality policy included women's access to and control of productive and heritage natural resources. There were still significant gaps in respect of land ownership, in particular among rural and indigenous women. Water management was a priority issue because, while women were responsible for transporting water, making it safe to drink and storing it, they rarely participated in decision-making on its use and sustainability. The National Sanitation Services Authority (SNSS) had been the first national public body in the water sector to adopt a gender equality policy. Progress was being made with incorporating that approach into management policies, such as the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Peru, which was part of the updating of the Peru National Climate Change Strategy to 2050. She also mentioned the creation, in 2021, of the Intersectoral Mechanism for Protecting Human Rights Defenders—including environmental defenders—in order to provide them with protection, recognition and access to justice.

52. The representative of Suriname underscored that developing countries were hit hardest by climate change. She shared her concern that, were sea levels to continue rising, the vast majority of the country's population would be displaced and much of the country's farmland would be lost. She highlighted the poverty and food-security impact of disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, which disproportionately affected women. She said the country had implemented a programme against domestic violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and was preparing a report on climate resilience. Climate change was a priority area for the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021–2035 of Suriname. It was important to remain committed to women's empowerment and inclusion in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, and cooperation between regions was key to achieving an effective response.

53. The representative of Colombia said that her country had a road map to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Moreover, the gender and climate change action plan had been drawn up with the involvement of rural, indigenous, Afrodescendent and *Raizal* women. Each climate change strategy had a gender-equity focus and the process for each had involved consideration of the sustainability of life, the energy transition and women's participation. She underscored the importance of having the resources to create opportunities at that time of transition.

54. The representative of Chile said that improvements to the Lima work programme on gender had been promoted with the support of ECLAC, the European Union and the United Nations system, as had the regional meeting on climate change and gender equality. Her country was leading efforts to incorporate the gender perspective into climate policies at the regional level, heading a regional group of experts in the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. A Gender and Climate Change Panel had also been established, chaired by the Ministry of the Environment of Chile and with members drawn from over 25 public bodies, with a view to reducing gender gaps and mainstreaming gender into climate policy. She reiterated her country's commitment to continued progress with amplifying the voices of all the women who dedicated their lives to mitigating the consequences of the socioenvironmental and ecological crisis, with particular focus on the protection and participation of Caribbean, indigenous and rural women and of women climate justice defenders.

55. The representative of Mexico highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change on people in vulnerable situations. Mexico was mainstreaming climate action with a human rights-based, intersectional and gender approach. She highlighted the role and participation of Mexico at the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Moreover, at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Mexican delegation would present the country's strategy for implementing the gender action plan.

56. The representative of the Bahamas said that it was necessary to acknowledge women's triple workload and to promote the sharing of responsibility, in addition to fostering women's ICT use and bringing them into STEM fields. The Government of the Bahamas had worked on that by means of programmes and initiatives to encourage women's involvement in those fields. There was an urgent need to create strategies for surviving the effects of climate change. In that connection, a survey conducted in partnership with the University of the Bahamas confirmed that gender-based violence had increased in disaster situations.

57. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF said that climate change and disasters had especially harmful effects on girls and adolescents, who had to drop out of school to help with care work or were forced into child marriage and early unions to offset the economic difficulties caused by climate crises. Other impacts included increased insecurity due to displacement and migration, fewer work opportunities for young people and food shortages. He proposed including in the consultation's conclusions the need to set out specific strategies for addressing the effects that the climate and environmental crisis were having on the lives of the region's girls.

58. Next, representatives of civil society took the floor. The representative of Cotidiano Mujer said that her organization was working on an initiative as part of the Pan-Amazonian Social Forum. She underscored the Amazon's importance to the continent and shared some recommendations for tackling the problem. She suggested drastically cutting consumption of goods and energy; promoting an emergency plan to stem biodiversity loss; encouraging the development of an environmentally friendly, feminist social economy focused on the common good and the sustainability of life that ensured social equity; and rethinking infrastructure, transport and city-planning on the basis of effectiveness, resource-saving and social justice criteria. She also proposed, among other things, adapting the production model to prioritize food sovereignty and promoting societies with a biocentric viewpoint that brought about changed consumption habits, environmental gender justice and participation. Lastly, she suggested a focus on care policies at the local level, given their interrelatedness with the environment.

59. The representative of the Foundation for Studies and Research on Women, referring to violence against women environmental defenders, including murders, said that not enough had been done to solve that problem. She highlighted the concerns of Caribbean women. Women, girls, and indigenous, rural, campesino and Afrodescendent women should be included in mitigation and adaptation programmes, since they were hardest hit by disasters. Governments urgently needed to ratify the Escazú Agreement and to comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. Lastly, she stressed the importance of having information and of that information being accessible to grass-roots movements and women's organizations.

60. The representative of the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women's Centre and of the Marcosur Feminist Organization said that there was an urgent need for women's participation in climate action and for care systems to sustain life. She joined in condemning violence against women environmental defenders and other illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, appropriation of State lands and illegal logging. It was essential to guarantee the protection of women environmental defenders, to ensure compliance with existing legislation and to strengthen the rule of law.

61. The representative of Citizen Action for Human Rights said that climate justice went hand in hand with gender justice and she demanded the ratification of the Escazú Agreement. Most of the causes of climate disasters arose in the global North and it was important that the global South should discuss mitigation and adaptation measures. She proposed a socioenvironmental and feminist model of justice, not just for changing energy sources or output, but also to make use of the model itself. She called for promotion of the Ecosocial Pact of the South, a comprehensive proposal that illustrated the connections between the patriarchy and extractivism, with a gender and diversity perspective. She also highlighted the situation of women who had been displaced and driven from their communities and lands by a lack of water and by the presence of extractive industries. In addition, action coalitions were needed to provide the strength and capacity necessary for tackling the climate emergency, with women and girls at the centre.

62. The representative of Equality Now said that in-depth analysis of the links between gender-based violence and climate change was key, as was strengthened language to prevent violence in the event of disasters. In that connection, it was important to protect environmental defenders and indigenous community leaders. She also stressed the importance of enshrining the right to water as a human right, since women suffered the most harm from the struggle for water. Lastly, she called on governments to pay particular attention to forced child marriages and unions, a phenomenon made worse by increasing poverty and migration for socioeconomic reasons.

63. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC closed the panel discussion by reiterating that Latin America and the Caribbean was the most unequal region in the world and the region that had been hardest hit by climate change and COVID-19. Emphasizing the importance of the Escazú Agreement and its potential for bringing women's input into forums for decision-making in relation to those areas, she thanked the panellists and delegations for taking part.

Panel: Gender equality, women's autonomy and disaster risk reduction policies

64. The panel on gender equality, women's autonomy and disaster risk reduction policies was moderated by Adis King, Minister for Youth Development and Empowerment, Youth at Risk, Gender Affairs, Seniors' Security and Dominicans with Disabilities of Dominica.

65. Introductory remarks were given by Nahuel Arenas García, Deputy Chief of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of UNDRR, who said that it was vital to recognize the importance of focusing on disaster risk at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, given that the region was prone to disasters. He underscored that disasters were not natural: while they might be natural in origin, they resulted from poor decisions and always affected women, girls and people in situations of vulnerability disproportionately. Although pre-existing, gaps were worsened by disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic was a prime example. He therefore stressed the urgent need to strengthen disaster policies with a gender perspective. The results of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, held in 2021, had included the updating of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas and the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth High-Level Meeting of Ministers and Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean, both of which employed gender-sensitive language and acknowledged the importance of women's leadership. The launch of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Women for Disaster Risk Reduction was also noteworthy.

66. Daniela C. Beltrame and María del Pilar Medina, consultants with UNDRR, presented the document *Towards Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for Resilience to Disaster Risks in Latin America and the Caribbean*. They emphasized three central ideas: disasters were not natural, although threats might be; disaster risk was systemic; and women, rather than being intrinsically more vulnerable, were seeing their rights violated, leaving them more exposed. Among the challenges for disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean was the fact that the region was very exposed to such threats and that, in addition to a lack of disaggregated data, gender biases existed in language use and knowledge production. They then discussed the gender perspective in the application of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, highlighting progress and challenges. They also recommended monitoring, evaluation and accountability processes for guaranteeing rights and transparency; the search for funding opportunities and the determination of initiatives' sustainability; and the local adaptation of education processes. They then recommended that international community should identify commonalities and opportunities for coordinating gender equality programmes and schemes in disaster risk reduction and set out guidelines for swifter implementation of the Sendai Framework.

67. Commenting on the document, Dean Jonas, Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy of Antigua and Barbuda, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that natural disasters had, in recent times, reached unprecedented levels of intensity and destruction. It was essential to understand that capacities for confronting such disasters varied, depending on people's socioeconomic situation, age, sex and immigration status. Obstacles to mainstreaming a gender perspective into public policies included lack of institutional capacity and lack of diversity in leadership roles in disaster management and policymaking. Moreover, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had changed the socioeconomic landscape of the regions, with an especially negative effect on women, in particular women heads of household. Disaster risk reduction policies that promoted gender equality and women's autonomy needed to be executed.

68. Ana Leticia Aguilar, Presidential Secretary for Women of Guatemala and President pro tempore of the Council of Ministers for Women's Affairs of Central America and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA), said that knowledge should be generated and information should be available for the purpose of identifying and allocating the necessary resources. Mechanisms enabling the full participation of women in policymaking processes were also needed. It was important to reduce gender gaps throughout the public policy cycle; that would make it possible to anticipate disasters instead of implementing reactive, short-term policies, thereby reducing costs, damage and losses. Continued progress in strengthening the capacities of machineries for the advancement of women was needed, so that systems and technical instruments to guide the public sector could be developed. Lastly, she reiterated the importance of subscription to that approach by regional actors and international partners.

69. Ruth Spencer, Chair of the Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust of Antigua and Barbuda, said that it was important to incorporate people's knowledge into disaster management. It was imperative for implemented plans and actions to first be agreed with the at-risk communities themselves and to that end, people had to be familiar with legislation. In view of that, a social responsibility movement had been launched in Antigua in order to share information and move towards risk-informed development. Her country's challenges included non-compliance with forestry laws and exploitation of wetlands by investors. Such situations had not only been deleterious for the country's heritage and culture, but also for tourism and natural protection against climate disasters. The destruction of biodiversity had a considerable impact on communities' vulnerability. She emphasized the importance of the Escazú Agreement and called for cooperation to ensure that systems for protecting the environment were strengthened.

70. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Nicaragua said that the country's policies were based on the economic and social development of campesino and rural women, young women, women with disabilities and indigenous and Afrodescendent women, who were recognized as ancestral guardians of the forests. The country had several programmes, such as the National Climate Change Response System; the strategy of captive breeding centres; initiatives for using technology to adapt farming to climate change; food-security programmes; and the national strategy of *telecentros* (State-run facilities offering smallholders training on farming techniques). Moreover, the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System had a community network of women, who had been organized and trained on disaster prevention and response, for managing risk at the national level. Those women were also members of municipal disaster prevention, mitigation and response committees and of neighbourhood committees.

71. The representative of Brazil said that her country had adopted risk management strategies and policies intended to eliminate or reduce social vulnerabilities and health impacts, which would contribute to reducing losses from disasters. One example was the government's response to the heavy rainfall in the State of Bahia, which had included liaising with the General Coordination Office for Support for Traditional Peoples and Communities (CGPCT), communicating with long-stay facilities in the affected municipalities to monitor older persons' safety, and providing guidance on care and support for victims. There had been immediate responses to meet the population's needs, prioritizing the supply of water, food, medicines and strategic inputs to help with the health emergency. Other responses had included the approval of investments in the repair of roads and bridges.

72. The representative of Paraguay said that her country had a National Risk Management and Reduction Policy, which included a National Drought Strategy and a plan for implementing the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, several awareness-raising workshops had been held and the Department of Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development had been created within the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Work was being carried out on risk management plans and women's participation in key decision-making forums was being promoted.

73. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that work was being done on women's right to participate in decision-making and on the elimination of violence. With regard to risk management, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had legislation such as the Risk Management Act, which covered matters pertaining to prevention, mitigation, preparation and reconstruction. Indigenous women were severely harmed by droughts, floods, poverty and food insecurity caused by climate change. The country was committed to continuing to work on protecting Mother Earth's rights.

74. In the section dedicated to statements by civil society, the co-founder of the National Network of Women Defenders and of the organization Thought-weaving Women for Environmental and Territorial Governance said that women environmental defenders faced dangers and threats. The Colombia peace agreement should be implemented and the Escazú Agreement ratified. Indigenous peoples' knowledge must be recognized and respected. Consideration needed to be given to access to information, with the language barrier taken into account. Lastly, women's networks for sharing experiences needed to be bolstered, with support for such processes and with funds allocated specifically to enabling work with women at the territorial and local levels.

75. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNAIDS recalled that the women, in all their diversity, and members of the LGBTBIQ+ community living with HIV/AIDS should not be forgotten. She said that the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be a space for negotiations that would offer a critical opportunity for ensuring measures to promote HIV prevention and contribute to the autonomy of women in all their diversity.

76. The representative of Colombia said that it was the first time that a development plan in Colombia included a plan for protecting human rights defenders, in particular women, with a road map for the next eight years. She underscored the importance of women leaders and human rights defenders in her country, with indigenous women central to the National Policy on Gender Equity for Women and to its budget.

Presentation of the declaration of the Feminist Forum organized by the Committee of Non- Governmental Organizations on the Condition of Women from Latin America and the Caribbean (CoNGO CSW LAC)

77. Valeria Vázquez, Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Young People for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (RedLAC), stressed that the climate crisis and its consequences disproportionately affected girls and women, in all their identities and diversity. She noted the need for a shift to sustainable production and consumption patterns that incorporated policies for redistributing wealth, income and time and that broke with development models based on extractivism and the exploitation of resources, which forced populations from their lands and damaged the environment.

78. Milena Páramo, Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights (CLADEM), expressing her concern about violence against human rights and environmental defenders, said that comprehensive protection programmes were required. Some noteworthy challenges remained, such as ratification of the Escazú Agreement; compliance with ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and the Paris Agreement; and the adoption of gender-sensitive policies to tackle climate change. It was necessary to prioritize knowledge management for mitigation and adaptation strategies, access to property and the use and control of land and water for women. Governments should pay attention to violence in crisis situations and to forced early child marriages and unions. Lastly, it was important for stable and sufficient funding to be channelled into adaptation and mitigation strategies and resilience programmes.

Presentation of the Declaration of the Ministers and High-level Authorities of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

79. Mónica Zalaquett, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean said that the declaration demonstrated the commitment of the region's countries to progressing towards gender equality and to encouraging, facilitating and ensuring women's incorporation into public policy programmes, in view of women's crucial role as agents of change. It was important to mainstream gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspectives into all policies and programmes for mitigating climate change and environmental disasters. Likewise, it was important for governments to coordinate their various portfolios to promote multisectoral initiatives. Lastly, a transformative recovery must incorporate women's full participation and effect the transition to a care society, while remaining environmentally friendly.

Closing of the special session

80. María Cristina Perceval, Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and representative of the country serving as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing GRULAC, closed the special session on the regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She said that the current development model was unsustainable and that adaptation and mitigation policies with equality at their core were needed. She reiterated the special call of ECLAC for debt management and the debt-for-climate swap for the Caribbean, and for the machineries for the advancement of women to

participate in negotiations on how to cope with climate change. It was necessary to generate empirical data and develop public policies to move towards caring, cooperative and responsible societies. Women and LGBTI+ persons were more vulnerable to suffering violence, especially sexual violence, during disasters. Lastly, she shared four fundamental pillars, proposed by Argentina, for executing climate change and disaster risk reduction policies from the human rights, gender and diversity perspectives: ensuring full access to natural and productive resources in all territories; ensuring effective enjoyment of decent living conditions; promoting the distribution of care work within society, with a view to enabling sustainable development on an equal footing; and providing empirical data and creating policies that tackled the differential impact of disasters and climate change on women, girls, LGBTI+ persons, and indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples.

Preparations for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

81. Ana Güzmes García, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, outlined the progress in preparations for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She highlighted the targets of the Regional Gender Agenda; the link between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; and the adoption of the *Methodological Guide on Time-use Measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean* by the Statistical Conference of the Americas. She set out the road map to the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference, which would take place in November 2022 in Buenos Aires. She mentioned the upcoming preparatory meetings, including meetings of specialists in the sustainability of life and care for the planet and in funding care policies. She previewed the index of the position paper for the forthcoming Regional Conference, which would analyse, among other things, the structural challenges of inequality; care amid demographic, epidemiological and economic change; and the macroeconomic challenges for a care society. She said that the care society entailed the equitable distribution of resources, power, time and labour, as well as a change in consumption, production and distribution patterns; it also offered a collective future. The preparations for the fifteenth session of the Conference constituted a participatory process that placed the region's women and girls at the centre and strengthened coordination with the machineries for the advancement of women, the various State actors, line ministries, national statistical offices and local governments. She also spoke of the role of civil society organizations, in particular women's and feminist organizations, as well as the importance of the cooperation and participation of United Nations system bodies, international and regional organizations and other intergovernmental organizations.

82. María Cristina Perceval, Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and as representative of the host country of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, said that her country was committed to gender equality. Her government, as host of the next session of the Conference, hoped to incorporate all the elements that had been progressively adopted in the meetings of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The concept of care needed to feature prominently in discussions about sustainable development, so she welcomed the central theme of the next session. Sustainable development must incorporate intersectionality and take account of the violence, oppression and inequality that affected various population groups, in particular the most vulnerable ones. It must also include the creation of comprehensive national care systems that were universal, cross-sectoral, co-responsible and sustainable, while also ensuring the full participation of women and LGTBQI+ persons. Full and diverse attendance was expected at the fifteenth session, at which several side events would be held to ensure that everyone could express ideas and proposals.

83. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil outlined some actions executed in the country in relation to economic autonomy, including a programme offering training to women in vulnerable situations, with a view to contributing to their economic autonomy and helping them break out of the cycle of violence.

84. The representative of Mexico said that for her government it was essential to construct a comprehensive, universal and sustainable care system. For the first time, the specific goal of recognizing, reducing and of redistributing domestic work between family, governments, the community and the private sector had been included in the National Programme for Equality between Women and Men 2020–2024. Moreover, the legislature’s initiative of enacting a national care system bill had been supported. Other actions taken in Mexico included studies on investment in care services and on its benefits. Care remained important for a sustainable recovery with gender equality.

85. The representative of Paraguay said that the establishment of a National Care Policy was a priority for the country and that the draft bill founding the national care system had been approved. It was important to promote financial sustainability, with a view to the effective execution of public policies to close the gender gap. A gender-sensitive recovery needed to be achieved.

86. The representative of Ecuador said that her country’s major challenges included preventing violence against girls and women and eradicating discrimination against LGBTQI persons. Noteworthy policies and initiatives on violence and care systems included increasing the relevant budgets and resources, creating the role of Undersecretary for Diversity and providing care for victims of violence through Violet Centre shelters. Efforts had also been made to organize a national care system and stronger ties were being forged with civil society organizations with a view to sharing knowledge between communities and the State. Lastly, work was being done on a central register of violence for the National Observatory for Women.

87. The representative of Saint Lucia underscored the importance of women’s autonomy and their participation in all decision-making and development processes. In recent years, there had been a change, with gender being mainstreamed into environmental, climate and social protection processes. She called for continued prioritization of such forums for dialogue and of those opportunities that gave access to the resources for continued pursuit of those goals.

88. The representative of Spain said that her country considered care to play a key role. Various multilateral forums had discussed the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, but also the opportunities it presented for promoting feminist policies that adopted a structural understanding of care. Spain took the view that a feminist approach to tackling the crisis should be adopted, with a commitment to a comprehensive and public care system.

89. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that care was crucial if women’s autonomy was to be achieved and she hoped the next session of the Conference would serve to promote care as a key element of public investment.

90. The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States also underscored the importance of care, saying that a model care bill was being drafted.

91. The Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNICEF said that the fifteenth session of the Conference should build on the best practice developed at the fourteenth session in relation to the inclusion of young people. The closure of schools due to the pandemic had laid bare the way in which, owing to gender standards, girls and adolescents also performed care work. Girls were also

worried about the increase in domestic violence and poverty and felt unheard and overlooked. It was essential to give visibility to migrant girls and adolescents, and time should be allocated to addressing the agency of girls, adolescents and young women at the next session of the Conference.

92. The representative of Colombia said that her country had been measuring the care economy for over a decade and had a public policy on care that included a large component of dialogue and interaction with regional governments. She spoke of a new financial instrument: a line of credit that would take into account women's excessive burden of unpaid work and caregiving.

93. Lastly, the representative of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, underscored the urgent need to promote care systems in the region, identifying the Conference as a key opportunity to make progress in that regard.
Other matters (agenda item 6)

94. There being no other matters to consider, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 7)

95. The representatives adopted the agreements contained in annex 1 of this report.

Closing session

96. In the closing session, statements were made by Ana Gúezmes García, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, on behalf of Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; and Mónica Zalaquett, Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

97. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the debates and agreements of the two days of the meeting of the Presiding Officers were guiding the preparations for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the region's position at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Coping with climate change and disasters was a major challenge for the region, so mitigation measures should be coordinated at the national and regional levels, with caring for people and the planet as the central themes. She spoke of the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean and called for a fair distribution of power, resources, time, wealth, labour and technology. It was necessary to break the statistical silence and move towards information systems that took gender inequalities into account in all three pillars of sustainable development. The first group of organizations selected by the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements would be announced in the coming months and she called for countries to join the Fund. She reiterated the importance of social, political and economic compacts and of the full participation of women, adolescents and girls for there to be progress with the Regional Gender Agenda.

98. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women underscored that the region was unique in that it had participatory and convening forums that enabled continued progress towards gender equality. She thanked the ministers, the machineries for the advancement of women, civil society organizations and the various organizations represented, among others. There was an urgent need to ensure funding for combating climate change and the inclusion of women in all their diversity. It was

also important to recognize the risks faced by women environmental defenders. She stated that the shared goal was to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the Regional Gender Agenda, climate action and disaster mitigation, and resilience of all women, leaving no one behind.

99. The Minister for Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting all the delegations' major commitments to continue building alliances and bridges with a view to transformative changes in the region and its countries, said that those commitments would be crucial in the future. She welcomed the progress made by the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements and the cross-cutting support for the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean. She noted the agreement on a regional position for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women thanks to a consultation that attested to the region's increasingly firm commitment. In closing, she thanked women, civil society movements, ECLAC, UN-Women and all the delegations and participants.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

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

1. *Call once again* for COVID-19 response and recovery policies to incorporate a gender perspective, to include participation by all women and girls in their design and implementation, and to help to overcome the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, exclusion and inequality that disproportionately affect women and girls in all their diversity and are manifest in increased unemployment and poverty in the vast majority of the region's countries, as well as in the overburden of paid and unpaid domestic and care work, and which threaten to widening existing gaps and reverse progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda;

2. *Reaffirm once again* the commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming by the different levels and branches of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with citizen participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

3. *Reiterate* the call to advance recovery plans with affirmative actions that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full and effective participation of women in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

4. *Invite* those countries in the region that have not yet done so to join the Global Alliance for Care Work, launched by Mexico with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions;

5. *Welcome* the report on the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean, commend the progress made by some countries in the region to close gender gaps in access to, skills development for and use of information and communications technologies by women and girls, and reiterate the call to promote full participation by women in the digital economy;

6. *Also welcome* the report on the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, presented by its Board of Directors, which refers to the first call to strengthen women's and feminist organizations and to the progress made regarding operational aspects of the Fund;

7. *Encourage once again* the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean and of other regions, developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminists Organizations and Movements, and thank Mexico for its cooperation with the Fund through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN- Women), the administrative body;

8. *Recognize* the coordinated work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on gender mainstreaming in regional statistical production, as stated in resolution 12(XI) of the eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

9. *Commend* the adoption of the *Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean (Summary)*¹ at the eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and reiterate the call to the countries of the region at that meeting to incorporate, on a regular basis, the production of time-use surveys into their work programmes as an essential tool for measuring unpaid work and monitoring gender inequalities;

10. *Recognize* the outcome of the third meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean regarding gender mainstreaming in policies and initiatives related to the development of science, technology and innovation as part of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities in science, innovation and information and communications technologies, 2022–2023;²

11. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for their joint organization of the regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers;

12. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the success of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers and acknowledge the contributions of the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), for their contributions in moderating the special regional consultation in preparation for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers;

13. *Welcome* the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

14. *Request* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers and the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), to present the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation session and the agreements of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2022;

15. *Adopt* the proposal of the secretariat regarding the preparatory activities for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in the first week of November 2022 in Buenos Aires, under the theme “The care society: a horizon for sustainable

¹ LC/CEA.11/4.

² Buenos Aires Declaration, 15 December 2021 [online] https://innovalac.cepal.org/3/sites/innovalac3/files/21-00974_ccitic.3_buenos_aires_declaration.pdf.

recovery with gender equality”, which includes subregional sessions, meetings with experts and a broad participatory process, and urge the governments to participate actively in those activities;

16. *Express* deep gratitude to Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for her leadership, commitment and outstanding work, and for her efforts in favour of the rights and autonomy of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for her tireless efforts in favour of gender equality to achieve sustainable development and a care society in the region.

Annex 2

**DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF
THE NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

We, the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean from 26–27 January 2022 at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14–25 March 2022,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols, the conventions of the International Labour Organization, especially No. 100, No. 156, No. 169, No. 189 and No. 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador, 1988), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth (2008), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), the 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), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement, 2021), 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, adolescent girls 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 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) (2014), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the New Urban Agenda of the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011) and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016),

Reaffirming also the commitments assumed by States at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its Agenda 21, particularly chapter 24, the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and its gender action plans, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and its Lima Work Programme on Gender and gender action plans, the Convention to Combat Desertification (1994) and its gender action plan, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (1992), the Millennium Declaration (2000), the Johannesburg Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), particularly through Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and the Paris Agreement (2016),

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), the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), and the Santiago Commitment (2020),

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, migrants, adolescents and children, persons with disabilities and people in situations of vulnerability and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment and autonomy of women and intergenerational equity,

Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men in all their diversity can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional and intersectional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and indigenous peoples, persons who depend primarily on nature for their living, and people in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing that women and girls affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters face particular barriers in gaining access to water and sanitation, health services, education and food security,

Recognizing also that Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, that it is affected by extreme hydrometeorological events and is highly sensitive to the effects of climate change owing to its geographic location and its socioeconomic, demographic and institutional conditions, and that it faces deep structural inequalities,

Recognizing further that, in the aftermath of disasters, accommodation in shelters can lead to situations of violence and abuse against women, adolescents and girls,

Considering that the crisis resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its multidimensional and interrelated impacts have exacerbated the challenges already faced by countries in the region, in particular indebted countries and those most vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change, and have a disproportionately high impact on women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, deepening the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination and exclusion and the structural challenges of gender inequality,

Recognizing with concern the unprecedented crisis caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the uneven nature of the global response to the pandemic and the pandemic's multifaceted effects on all spheres of society, including the deepening of pre-existing inequalities, such as gender inequality, and resulting vulnerabilities, which may negatively impact the implementation of effective gender-responsive climate action,

Recognizing the contribution of rural, indigenous and campesino women and women who use coastal marine resources as guardians of biodiversity, albeit under conditions of significant fragility and exploitation and with less access to and control over land and production resources, and who shoulder the main responsibility for providing food for their families, collecting water and firewood, and tending vegetable plots and animals,

Considering that climate change actions, depending on how they are designed, can exacerbate gender inequalities or, on the contrary, help to overcome them, and in view of the urgency of accelerating the pace towards gender equality and guaranteeing the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in their diversity, we agree to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and international commitments with respect to gender equality, women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, and the full guarantee of their human rights, with an intersectional and intercultural approach, which will allow progress towards achieving sustainable development, and to take climate-related measures to reduce emissions and build climate resilience and improve disaster risk management and reduction;

2. *Reiterate* our commitment to advance recovery plans with affirmative actions that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full and effective participation of women in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

3. *Integrate* the gender perspective into national policies, initiatives and programmes on the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the differentiated risks for and effects on women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, especially those subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and build the resilience and adaptive capacities of women, adolescent girls and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and environmental pollution in cities and rural areas;

4. *Strengthen* coordination between national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on the environment, climate change, disaster risk management and reduction, planning, finance, economy, energy and human rights, among others, and between the levels and branches of the State in order to promote climate action respecting, fostering and considering the obligations relating to gender equality;

5. *Advance* in incorporating a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective into policies and programmes with funding for sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, in disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening the full and effective participation of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and organizations, and in incorporating the gender perspective in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction and in processes of technological change to achieve low-carbon production;

6. *Promote and adopt* progressive fiscal policies and allocate budgets with a gender perspective to ensure sufficient, non-transferable, sustainable resources that cover all levels and areas of public policy aimed at reversing gender inequalities and guaranteeing the rights of women, adolescents and girls;

7. *Provide* national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change and disaster risk management and reduction, among others, with adequate human and financial resources to ensure that the gender perspective is incorporated into the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies, programmes and projects, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, for disaster risk management and reduction, and for the promotion of the autonomy and full participation of women in all their diversity;

8. *Strengthen* the capacities of national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change and disaster risk management and reduction, among others, to incorporate the gender perspective into the formulation, monitoring, implementation and review of national policies, plans, strategies and actions on climate change, including, where applicable, nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans that take into account targets and indicators to identify gender gaps that need to be closed, among others;

9. *Reaffirm* the commitment to promote comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective that foster co-responsibility between men and women and between the State, the market, families and the community, and that 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 and within the framework of climate change actions, specifically in the response to extreme weather events and disasters;

10. *Promote* a systemic change in the approach to migration from a gender and human rights perspective to highlight the contributions of women, adolescents and girls in the migration cycle and overcome the situations of vulnerability they face, and consider the adoption of cooperation agreements among countries of origin, transit, destination and return for women migrants, displaced women, and women refugees and asylum seekers, paying particular attention to displacement phenomena caused by climate change and disasters and the different forms of gender-based violence against women that occur as a result of these circumstances;

11. *Continue* working to strengthen environmental governance and the enforcement of environmental law in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including but not limited to mechanisms for access to information, participation and environmental justice, and the development of environmental public policies;

12. *Promote* the effective protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources; adopt measures to integrate the gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent discrimination and violence against these defenders; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that human rights violations committed against them are investigated and guarantee their access to justice;

13. *Strengthen* the resilience of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and promote their autonomy to respond to and recover from the impact of climate change, disasters and extreme weather events, through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance, the provision of infrastructure and essential services, promoting, among others, universal access to comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, as well as access to comprehensive services for the prevention of gender-based violence and care in such situations, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, housing, social protection and decent work for women;

14. *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, with particular attention to processes involving the environment, natural resources, climate change and disasters;

15. *Actively support* the participation of women's and feminist 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;

16. *Emphasize* the need to mainstream gender in sustainable development policies, international climate finance and funding for disaster risk management and reduction, and to significantly increase financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries, ensuring that such resources are additional to official development assistance, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and also ensuring enhanced access to such funding in order to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, including funding for women's and feminist organizations;

17. *Strengthen* the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and other variables that are relevant for intersectional gender analysis, to support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of economic, social, environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management and reduction policies;

18. *Stress* that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic should be an occasion to enhance and support the sustainable development policies of Latin America and the Caribbean while strengthening democracy and fulfilling human rights, and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development with gender equality and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including through the empowerment, autonomy and full participation of all women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity;

19. *Promote* coordinated work among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean so that the commitments to women's human rights and autonomy and gender equality established in the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean contribute to discussions in international decision-making spaces related to the environment, climate change, disaster risk management and reduction, and sustainable development;

20. *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 this regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

21. *Disseminate* this declaration among the ministries of foreign affairs of the governments of the region, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to the negotiation of the conclusions that will be adopted at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

22. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and commend the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States (GRULAC), for their contributions in moderating the regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request them to convey this declaration, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session.

Annex 3

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS¹**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
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¹ Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión.
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Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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