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**SUMMARY OF THE SEMINAR “THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND SDG FOLLOW-UP IN THE GENDER EQUALITY OBSERVATORY FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”**

Santiago, 17 April 2018



INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the seminar “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG follow-up in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean” was held on 17 April 2018 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago.

The seminar was organized by the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and focused on the discussion of the analytical and methodological approaches of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and its contribution to the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in synergy with the regional framework of indicators to follow up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries of ECLAC: Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Also attending were representatives of the following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Also present at the meeting were representatives of civil society organizations, especially women’s and feminist organizations and the academic sector.

A. OPENING SESSION

At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Janet Camilo, Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic and Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Lara Blanco, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of the strategic indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to women’s physical, economic and decision-making autonomy. She said that ECLAC support for the governments of the region in the measurement of time use and the development of indicators of women’s economic autonomy to account for total working time had been fundamental to monitoring target 5.4 of SDG 5 relating to unpaid work in Latin America and the Caribbean. She also said that some indicators of the Gender Equality Observatory, such as those relating to the representation of women in positions of power at the local level and to femicide, are crucial to the follow-up of SDG targets for women’s participation in decision-making and for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Next, the Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic underscored the work of the Gender Equality Observatory in the collection and analysis of data that shed light on gender inequalities, and in the production of reports that promote policies for gender equality and women’s autonomy in the

region. She also said that the work of the Gender Equality Observatory in that decade had established guidelines for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and she urged ECLAC, through the Observatory, to continue providing support for countries for the implementation and follow-up of SDG 5 and for gender mainstreaming in the other 16 SDGs. She emphasized the importance of technical support from ECLAC to help countries in the building of indicators for which data sources had still not been defined.

Next, the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women underscored the importance of information systems for decision-making and especially the role of the Gender Equality Observatory in producing knowledge and disseminating information to support governments. One future challenge was the follow-up of the SDGs, which would require further strengthening of gender statistics and inter-institutional partnerships.

B. PANEL ENTITLED “WOMEN’S PHYSICAL AUTONOMY: MEASUREMENT OF FEMINICIDE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

The panel on women’s physical autonomy was moderated by Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary a.i. of ECLAC. Participants included: Janet Camilo, Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic; Juan Huambachano, Manager of the Criminality Observatory of the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Peru; and Emiliano Rojido, Researcher at Rio de Janeiro State University’s Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence.

The Deputy Executive Secretary a.i. of ECLAC emphasized the importance of measuring femicide, which was one of the most paradigmatic expressions of violence against women, and the need for the implementation of measures to eliminate this problem, as well as for comprehensive prevention and care policies for women.

The Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Dominican Republic said that femicide had become a central concern for the citizens and governments of the region. She emphasized that violence against women, especially femicide, was multifactorial, and derived from discrimination and inequality. She said that scarce and fragmented data were a barrier to building indicators that could provide a more accurate picture of the problem of violence against women and contribute to the effective formulation and evaluation of public policies to detect, prevent, address, punish and remedy the damage caused to women who were victims of violence.

Next, the Manager of the Criminality Observatory of the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Peru shared the experience of his country in creating records and gathering information, which involved the development of an algorithmic and mathematical model to identify risk patterns relating to victims of gender-based violence. This information was used to create a femicide warning system and to implement femicide prevention measures through mechanisms that anticipate risk, instead of just recording and counting the victims. This experience marked the shift from a reactive approach (in which the victim contacted the authorities) to a proactive model according to which public prosecutors identified victims at high risk so that they could be protected.

The researcher at Rio de Janeiro State University’s Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence spoke of the importance of improving the availability, quality and disaggregation of official data to build various indicators on femicide and to enhance the comparability of data at the regional and international levels. To address the killings of women and femicide, a qualitative approach was needed to complement the

quantitative model, and the high incidence of these crimes in the domestic environment, carried out by current or former partners, had to be taken into account.

The panellists discussed the methodological difficulties of measuring and comparing data on femicide. The challenges the region faced included underreporting of the phenomenon and the persistence of obstacles to inter-institutional work within the countries. Proposals included using and adapting existing homicide records to record feminicides and promoting coordination between services and offices involved in producing and recording data (for example national statistical offices, health services, public prosecutors' offices and the police).

Lastly, in the discussion that followed, participants underscored the importance of improving the understanding of links between gender-based violence, poverty, age, gender identity, territory and ethnic and racial origin, and strengthening tools to measure them. They also recommended linking existing indicators in the Gender Equality Observatory with forms of violence related to femicide (for example disappearances) and with structural inequalities related to the labour market, education, productive development and violence in the media, for example.

C. PANEL ENTITLED “WOMEN’S DECISION-MAKING AUTONOMY: CHALLENGES FOR PARITY AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION”

Pamela Villalobos, Senior Social Affairs Officer of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, introduced and moderated the panel. Participants included: Lara Blanco, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; Katia Uriona, President of the Supreme Electoral Court of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; and Niki Johnson, political scientist and research lecturer at the University of the Republic of Uruguay.

In her introduction, the Senior Social Affairs Officer of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC provided an overview of the status of the main indicators of women’s decision-making autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. She said that although significant progress had been made in the region with the adoption of quota and parity laws, on average, women’s participation did not exceed 30% in any of the indicators. Meanwhile, harassment and political violence and the lack of access to resources limited women’s physical and economic autonomy and had a negative impact on their decision-making autonomy. She called for an analysis of the obstacles to women’s political participation and for the promotion of measures to guarantee the safety of female candidates and elected officials.

The Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women highlighted the context of change reflected in the 2018-2019 electoral cycle in several countries of the region, and in the emergence of conservative groups that questioned the progress made in the gender agenda. She spoke of the region’s contribution to the global discussion on political participation indicators through the joint work of UN-Women and ECLAC, and particularly the Gender Equality Observatory and its results, in the proposal of the regional framework to follow up the SDGs.

The President of the Supreme Electoral Court of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that her country was the second in the world and the first in Latin America to achieve parity in the legislature, as well as at the local level and in the composition of the electoral body. She underscored the importance of the participation of the women’s movement in the constituent process of her country. Moreover, she spoke of the creation of a democratic parity observatory, which focused on addressing the barriers to women’s

political participation and following up the representation system and the electoral system. In concluding, she said that the challenges of democratizing public and political institutions that were traditionally vertical and male-dominated should be tackled using a participatory democracy approach.

The research lecturer at the University of the Republic of Uruguay underscored the importance of parity as a governing principle of political systems and of quotas as a mechanism to achieve it. She spoke of key challenges for women's political participation. These included the impenetrability of political parties with respect to candidate selection and their influence on the eligibility of women, public and private financing sources and allocation, silence in cases of harassment and political violence, and the role of the media in the coverage of female politicians.

Lastly, in the discussion that followed, participants emphasized the importance of promoting the analysis of the heterogeneity of regional electoral systems' characteristics and functioning, and their influence on women's political participation. They also underscored the need to strengthen indicators of political representation at the local level and to advance in the construction of indicators in other spheres of decision-making, such as the governing bodies of universities and businesses.

D. PANEL ENTITLED “WOMEN’S ECONOMIC AUTONOMY: WORK, TIME AND INCOME”

Participants in the panel on women's economic autonomy included: Martha Ordoñez, Presidential Adviser in the Office of the Advisory Council for Women's Equity of Colombia; Norma Navarro Sandoval, Director of Conceptual Design for Traditional and Special Surveys of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico; and Francesca Grum, Chief of Social and Housing Statistics of the United Nations Statistics Division (by video link). Lucía Scuro, Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, introduced and moderated the panel.

In her introduction, the Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC underscored the progress made in the measurement of time use in Latin America and the Caribbean and said that there are currently 19 countries with at least one form of time-use measurement, which allows them to follow up target 5.4 of the SDGs.

The Presidential Adviser in the Office of the Advisory Council for Women's Equity of Colombia referred to the data from the two previous surveys (in 2012 and 2017) on time use and the calculation of the satellite account for unpaid household work in her country. She emphasized the usefulness of statistical information to generate evidence and its use in the formulation of public policies with a gender perspective. She highlighted the need for comprehensive public policies that addressed the gender gaps in the world of paid and unpaid work.

Similarly, the Director of Conceptual Design for Traditional and Special Surveys of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico shared the experience of her country in measuring time use and the construction of a satellite account for unpaid household work. She emphasized that the programme for equality of women and men for 2015–2018 (PROIGUALDAD) included indicators that used estimates of the value of unpaid work to measure progress in the achievement of goals. She underscored the importance of the work done by the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which through its meetings and activities had driven the conceptual

and methodological discussion of themes such as time-use measurement, determining the value of unpaid work and the use of data for equality policies.

The Chief of Social and Housing Statistics of the United Nations Statistics Division described the state of the global discussion on the construction of indicators to follow up SDG 5 and the challenges with respect to the availability of data disaggregated according to relevant variables such as type of work, age, geographical area, periodicity and international comparability. She also highlighted the contributions of the Latin American and Caribbean region to the global discussion.

Participants underscored the strategic link between producers (statistical offices) and users (mechanisms for the advancement of women) of statistical information, and also mentioned the mobilizing role of civil society in placing themes affecting women's economic autonomy at the centre of the discussion. They spoke of the targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda that incorporated a gender perspective and required countries to make progress in the production of the data and statistics necessary for the follow-up of the SDGs and the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda. Challenges included the need for political will to provide the necessary budget to guarantee quality and periodicity in the production of data.

E. PANEL ENTITLED “THE CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION FOR WOMEN’S AUTONOMY”

Participants in this panel included: Alba Goycoechea, Head of Office for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Uruguay; and Lydia Rosa Geny, Associate Social Affairs Officer of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Fabiana del Popolo, Population Affairs Officer of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, introduced and moderated the panel.

The Head of Office for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Uruguay said that migratory phenomena presented opportunities and limits for women's autonomy. For some women, migration meant new opportunities for economic autonomy, new knowledge and greater decision-making power over their own lives. For others, migration could mean the lack of recognition of their qualifications, discrimination and stigma because of their status both as women and as foreigners, and higher levels of job insecurity or informality in destination countries. She highlighted the importance of promoting dialogue between mechanisms for the advancement of women and entities responsible for migration policies, and of making progress on comprehensive public policies. In that vein, she mentioned the repository of regulations on gender and migration prepared jointly by ECLAC and IOM, which was available on the Gender Equality Observatory website. Lastly, she spoke of the need to continue improving the collection and analysis of statistical data on migration, disaggregated by sex in the countries of origin, transit and destination.

The Associate Social Affairs Officer of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean presented the main characteristics of migration in the Caribbean and the major challenges facing Caribbean women in the migration process. She recommended that laws and regulations conform to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and regional commitments such as the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. She also called for the strengthening of national statistical offices in the Caribbean for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a gender and migration perspective, and for the formulation of evidence-based policies.

F. CLOSING SESSION

At the closing session, statements were made by Carlos Robles, Ambassador of Spain in Chile; Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive President of the National Women's Institute of Costa Rica; Laís Abramo, Chief of the Social Development Division of ECLAC; and Lucía Scuro, Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

The speakers highlighted the importance of the Gender Equality Observatory for the systematic and up-to-date production of data and studies relating to women's physical, economic and decision-making autonomy. They said that the day's discussions provided inputs for the strengthening of the Gender Equality Observatory and the work of ECLAC in following up the gender equality commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and for the achievement of the commitments made by governments in the Regional Gender Agenda. They also underscored the importance of intersectoral work in the production and analysis of data for public policies, and the need for inter-institutional work within the United Nations system and in the countries.