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Regional Alliance for the Digitalization of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and on national initiatives

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Good morning to everyone again, and thanks to Monica Zalaquett for this excellent report on the Regional Alliance for the Digitalization of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and on national initiatives from Chile.

I want to congratulate the work of the Regional Alliance for the Digitalization of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The digital economy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) sector is marked by a gender gap accelerated by the pandemic. There is a need to address the gender gap in STEM urgently. By the end of 2020, more than 7.1 million jobs have been displaced, and half of the currently existing jobs are expected to disappear by 2050 (ITU, 2017). I would like to remind you that up to 75% of jobs will be related to the STEM field in the following decades (UNESCO, 2018).

In this framework, I would like to highlight the Todas Conectadas initiative, which aims to connect and digitize more than 3.8 million women in Latin America and the Caribbean. I find this Todas Conectadas platform to be a formidable opportunity to provide thousands of women in Latin America and the Caribbean with access to education, connection, and economic and business opportunities that in other instances have been denied to them.

I am convinced of the need to incorporate women in sectors that promote technological change, generate jobs, and reduce the environmental footprint, such as renewable energy, sustainable mobility, the digital revolution, the bioeconomy, and the circular economy. I think it is essential to encourage role models of women in STEM in all fields.

Finally, I would also like to highlight that there is more socioeconomic autonomy for women, there is less violence against women in the Latin American and Caribbean region. I am convinced that gender equality in the STEM sector and the digitization of our societies is key to achieving each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

With the #TodasConectadas Initiative, bridging the current digital gender gap is the first step in putting women and girls at the center of the new digital economies, just as it is a key driver for the creation of jobs and leadership opportunities by increasing the proportion of women working in technology and innovation.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my congratulations to the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality of Chile for this Digitalization initiative favoring women in Chile and throughout the region.

These projects with the private sector (Mastercard, Microsoft, and Eidos global, whom I thank) illustrate that we can work together to make a difference and build a better world.

You can count on UN Women always to move forward in building more just, prosperous, and inclusive connected societies.