

## Ninth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

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### Fact Sheet

## THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Total population of men and women (projection; thousands of people)

Year	Men	Women
2000	253,917,159	258,013,703
2005	273,385,445	278,380,431
2050	390,307,968	403,917,029

- Almost 50% of women over 15 years of age have no income of their own, while just 20% of men are in this situation.
- In 2000-2005, projected life expectancy for women is 74.5 years on average and for men 68.1 years. For 2005-2010, the figure for women will rise to 75.6 years, while for men it will rise to 69.2 years.
- Women's participation rate in the economy was 37.1%; for 2005 it is projected to reach 29.4%, and for 2010 41.6%.
- Women's representation in legislative bodies in 2002-2003 ranges from 10% to 20%, with Argentina, Costa Rica and Mexico posting the largest increases.

In 2002...

- 36.1% of the region's households were under the poverty line and 14.6% under the indigence line.
- The female poverty index\* in urban areas among women 25 to 59 years of age was higher than 100 in 17 of the region's countries.
- The percentage of women in poor households with no income ranged from 45% in Peru to 78% in Costa Rica, while in non-poor households it ranged from 32% in Uruguay to 54% in Mexico.
- Per capita income for households headed by women over the average for all households, was 94% of the income of households headed by men.
- Women's income in the labour force was 68% of men's.

- Almost 90% of households headed by women have no spouse. In households headed by men, just 13% are in this situation.
- For almost 45% of spouses their main activity is household activities.
- 38.4% of women had a job (over the region's total employed) up from 31.5% in 1990.
- Women's participation rate in the labour force was 49.7%, compared to 81% of men, while women's unemployment was 11.1%, compared to 7.7% for men.

**\* Female poverty index: This is the ratio between the number of women and men. In absolute terms the number of women is greater than men, so a corrected female index is used, which is calculated by dividing the female index for poor households by the respective index for total households headed by women.**

**Sources ECLAC: Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean 2002-2003; Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2002; Population Database, Estimates and Projections 1950-2050, CELADE-Population Division.**