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and the Caribbean**

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

Good morning everyone. It is an honor for me to be part of this session in which we are addressing the Preparations for the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and celebrating 45 years of the Regional Conference.

I greet my colleagues at this table:

Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago Cafiero, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina

Ana Güzemes García, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC

One of UN Women's main objectives in recent years has been the consolidation of a strategic alliance with ECLAC, and in particular with the Division for Gender Affairs, for more efficient coordination with Member States and to promote the common objective that both institutions share within the United Nations: to achieve gender equality and the empowerment and autonomy of all women and girls.

In this regard, not only did we successfully co-organize the XIV Regional Conference on Women, which took place here in Santiago in January 2020, but since then, we have been collaborating on both the Boards of Directors and the Pre-CSW Consultations, forging cooperation based on complementarity and the need to coordinate our work in the region in pursuit of sustainable development and equality.

Dear Ana, thank you very much for your presentation and for sharing with all those present the latest updates on the roadmap towards the XV Regional Conference in November in Buenos Aires, which we hope will allow us to continue advancing the agenda for gender equality and the commitments of all stakeholders for the consolidation of comprehensive care policies and systems.

For my part, I would like to share with you the progress we have made in the various commitments undertaken in this area.

Continuing with the road map, I would like to refer to the participation of women's and feminist organizations and networks in the Regional Conference on different fronts:

- First, I would like to update the ministers and authorities on the progress of the Feminist Organizations Forum (FOF), which is traditionally held prior to the Regional Conference. In this case, the Forum is scheduled to take place on November 7, and an organizing group of Argentinean organizations is already working in coordination with regional networks. We had the opportunity to meet with these groups during our official coordination mission to Buenos Aires in April. To support the realization of the Forum, UN Women will be providing financial support to ensure the participation of organizations from all over the region. Still, it is important to emphasize that the Feminist Forum is autonomous.

- Secondly, during the days of the Regional Conference, we hope to have the participation of numerous representatives of women's and feminist organizations and networks, both in the official program, as well as in the parallel events and as part of the accredited civil society.

- Thirdly, as agreed by the Member States in the framework of the Presiding Officers' Meetings, we encourage all States to promote and facilitate the inclusion of civil society representatives in their official delegations.

On the other hand, I would like to share with you the latest news regarding the Regional Fund to Support Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, which, as we know, is a joint initiative between governments, women's and feminist organizations and movements in the region and agencies of the United Nations System that resulted from the Regional Conference.

The first call was made this year, with the initial contribution of the government of Mexico and UN Women, and received a total of 258 applications from 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. After a rigorous selection process, 18 organizations from 10

countries in the region were selected: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

The Board of Directors of the Regional Fund approved this selection at the end of April and May. UN Women, as the Managing Entity, has closely accompanied each of the organizations in order to award the funds and jointly review the plans for their use. We have signed the commitments and are already in the process of disbursement of the funds so that the organizations can begin implementation. Considering the success of the first call, we hope to continue counting on the generosity of the States, the Agencies, and the donor community to be able to launch a call for proposals very soon. In this sense, we foresee a session of pledges of contributions to the Fund at the Regional Conference itself as an instance in which we hope that some governments and cooperation actors can contribute resources and make this commitment public.

To conclude, I would like to share with you the news of the Regional Alliance for the Digitalization of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which, as you know, was launched in 2021 in the framework of the 60th meeting of the Presiding Officers, led by the government of Chile, and which aims to reduce gender gaps in information and communication technologies in terms of access, skills development and use by women and girls and promote the full participation of women in the digital economy.

The Alliance is actively promoting collective, regional, and multi-sectoral actions for an inclusive digital transformation, such as the Basic Digital Basket with a Gender Perspective, focused on promoting national programs to improve women's access to digital technologies.

Progress is being made in countries such as Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay, in coordination with ECLAC.

On the other hand, TodasConectadas is a multi-stakeholder collaborative virtual platform launched in January of this year with training resources in digital skills, which facilitates a networking space and economic opportunities to bring together 3.8 million women throughout the region, mainly entrepreneurs and women interested in the T&I sector, and give them access to financial and commercial opportunities that they have been denied in other instances.

We hope that at the Regional Conference, progress can be made on these commitments and that we can advance innovations both with the countries that have already become involved and with other initiatives that we hope will be consolidated between now and that

date, including South-South and triangular cooperation, which will allow progress in the elimination of the digital divide and the autonomy of women in the region.

Thank you very much for your attention and collaboration in these joint initiatives, and I remain at your disposal if you have any further questions.