



# Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda



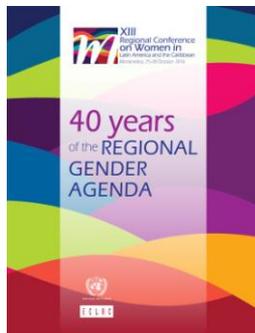
UNITED NATIONS



**Alicia Bárcena**

Executive Secretary

## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the regional gender agenda: virtuous confluences and linkage opportunities

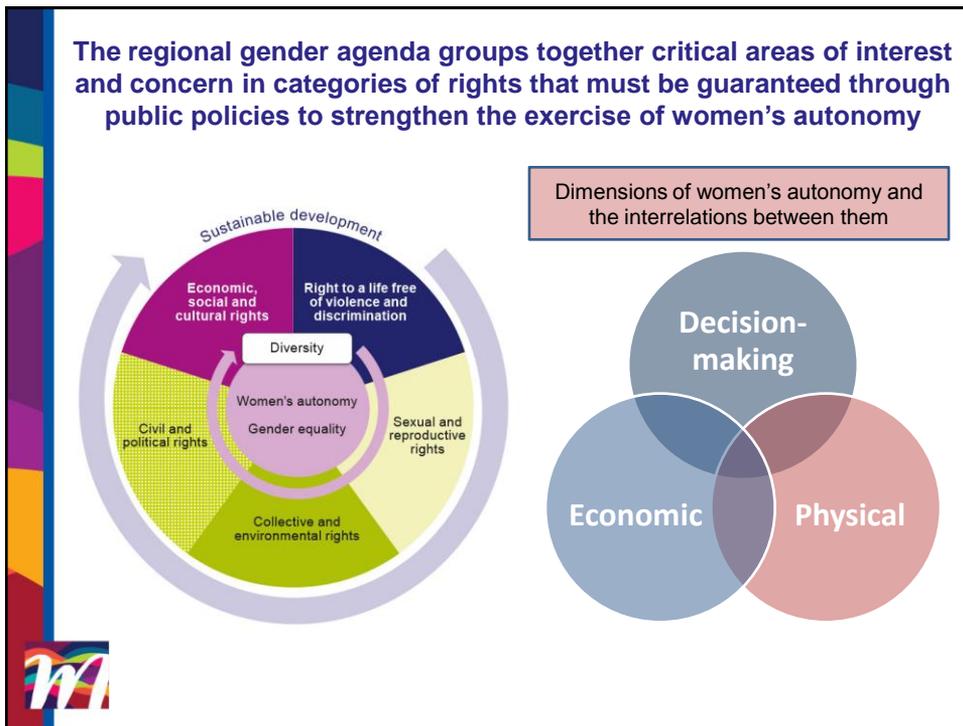
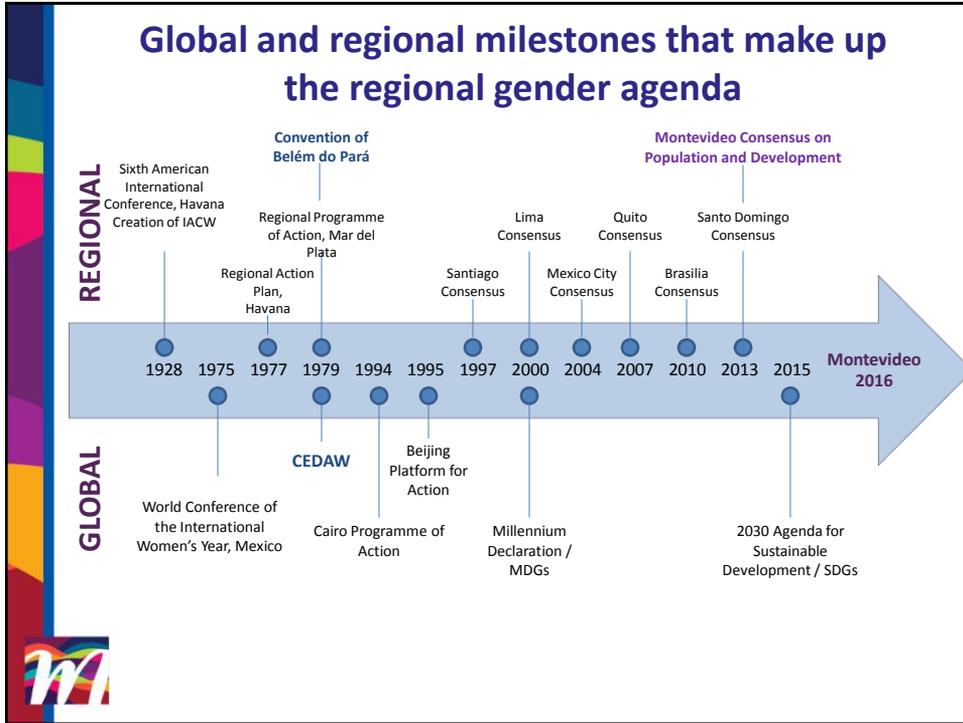


### Sustainable Development Goals

Gender equality and the empowerment of women front and centre  
Normative framework that should be translated into public policies

The regional gender agenda is the road map for Latin American and Caribbean countries to achieve SDGs from the perspective of gender equality, the guarantee of rights and women's autonomy

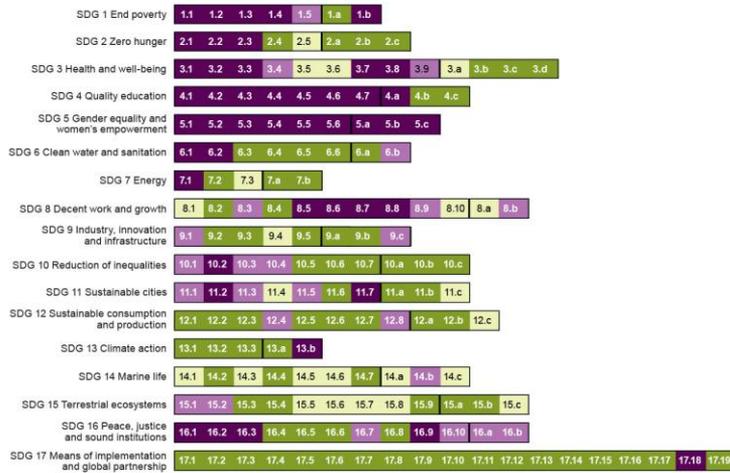




## The proposed Montevideo Strategy is based on 10 implementation pillars of the regional gender agenda



## Proposal for mainstreaming the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals based on the regional gender agenda



- Explicit targets on gender equality or women's rights
- Implicit targets on gender equality or women's rights
- Targets that create conditions for gender equality or women's rights
- Targets indirectly related to gender equality and/or women's rights
- I Separation between thematic targets and implementation targets

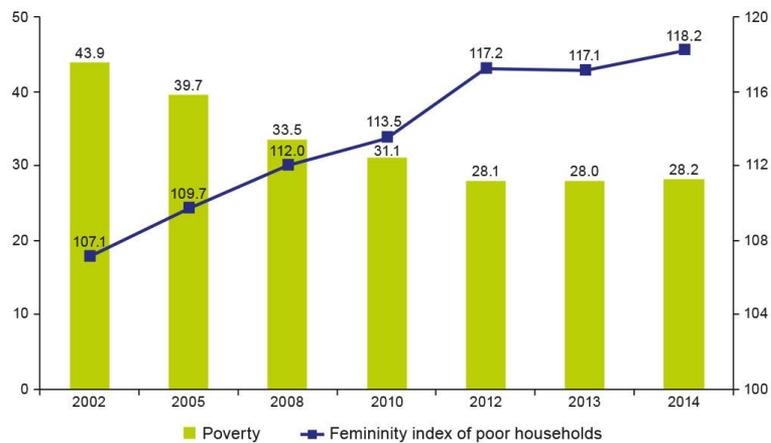


## Distributive equality and economic autonomy



### The reduction in poverty levels has not benefited women and men equally

LATIN AMERICA (18 COUNTRIES): INCIDENCE OF POVERTY AND FEMININITY INDEX OF POOR HOUSEHOLDS, 2002-2014  
(Percentages and indices)

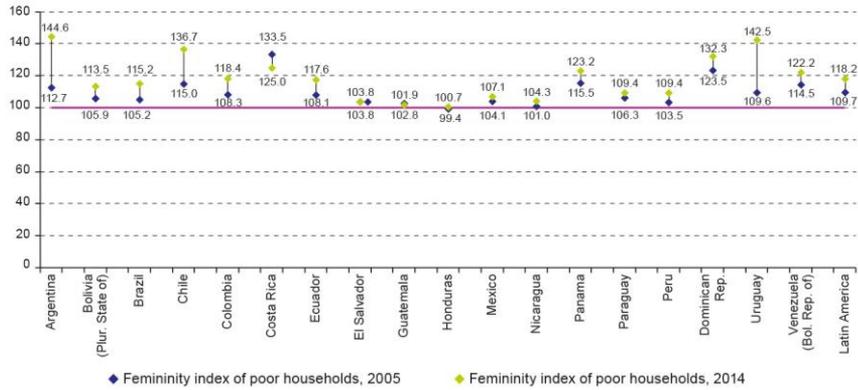


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.



## Women remain overrepresented in poor households even in the countries that have reduced poverty the most

LATIN AMERICA (18 COUNTRIES): FEMININITY INDEX OF POOR HOUSEHOLDS, AROUND 2005 AND 2014  
(Indices)

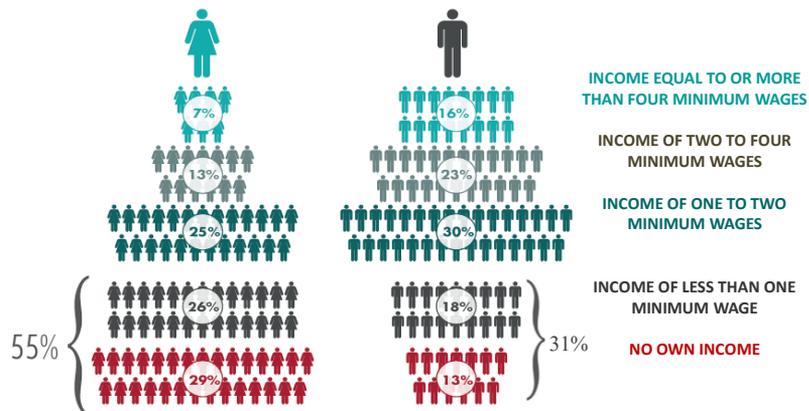


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.



## One in three women in the region does not have her own income and one in four earns less than the minimum wage

LATIN AMERICA (WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 17 COUNTRIES): DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER BY INCOME RELATIVE TO THE MINIMUM WAGE, AROUND 2014  
(Percentages)

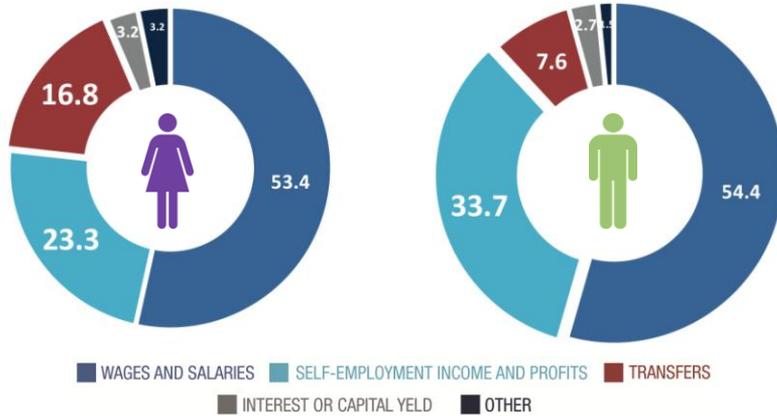


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of household surveys conducted in the respective countries.



## The main source of income for both men and women is wages and salaries, however women have less access to self-employment income and profits and depend more on transfers

LATIN AMERICA (17 COUNTRIES): COMPOSITION OF OWN INCOME BY SOURCE AND SEX, AROUND 2014  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## Women's pay is still only 83.9% of men's, and this gap is greater the more years of education they have

LATIN AMERICA (WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 18 COUNTRIES): AVERAGE WAGE OF URBAN FEMALE WAGE WORKERS AGED 20 TO 49 YEARS, WORKING 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK, AS A PROPORTION OF THE WAGES OF MEN WITH THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS, BY YEARS OF SCHOOLING, 1990 AND 2014  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

To close the wage gap and ensure a minimum revenue threshold, the minimum wage, as a labour institution that contributes to women's economic autonomy, should be strengthened by raising the wage floor.

This in turn affects other wage-dependent social benefits, such as social security, which do not cover women adequately.



## Family, domestic and care work are among the main reasons for high levels of non-participation in the labour market among women

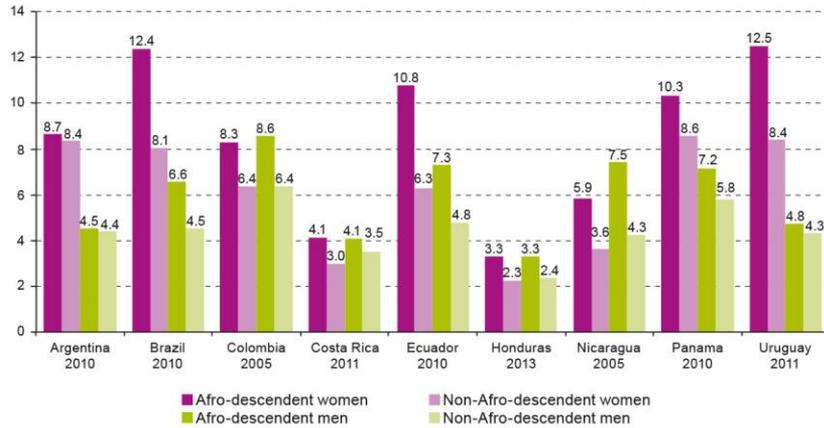
LATIN AMERICA (10 COUNTRIES): POPULATION AGED 20 TO 59 YEARS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE LABOUR MARKET FOR FAMILY REASONS, AROUND 2013  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## Unemployment rates are highest among Afro-descendent women and there are too few public policies and labour market policies for this population group

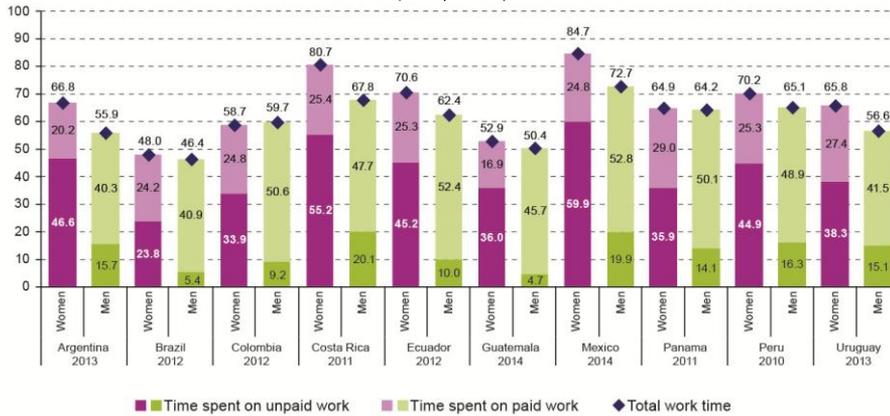
LATIN AMERICA (9 COUNTRIES): UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER BY SEX AND ETHNICITY/RACE, LATEST CENSUS DATA AVAILABLE (Percentages)



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean Data Bank (PIAALC), 2016.

## Women work for more hours in total than men and spend the majority of that time on unpaid household work

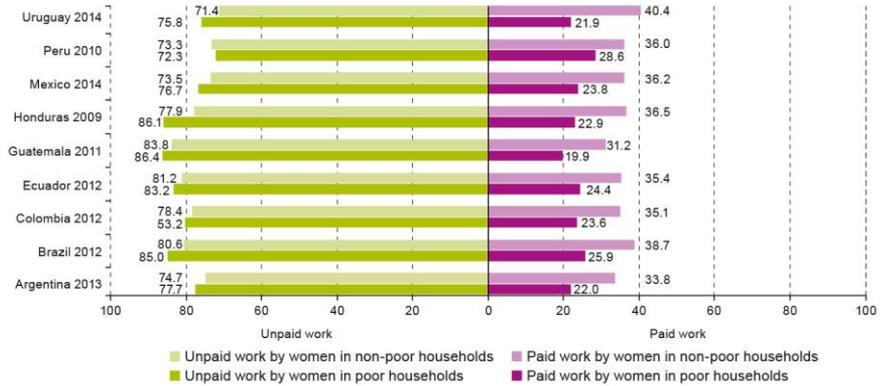
LATIN AMERICA (10 COUNTRIES): TOTAL TIME SPENT ON PAID AND UNPAID WORK BY THE POPULATION AGED 20 TO 59 YEARS, BY SEX, AROUND 2014 (Hours per week)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## Just as “the personal is political”, time is also political and is a decisive part of the redistribution of resources: there is a vicious circle between poverty and time spent on unpaid work

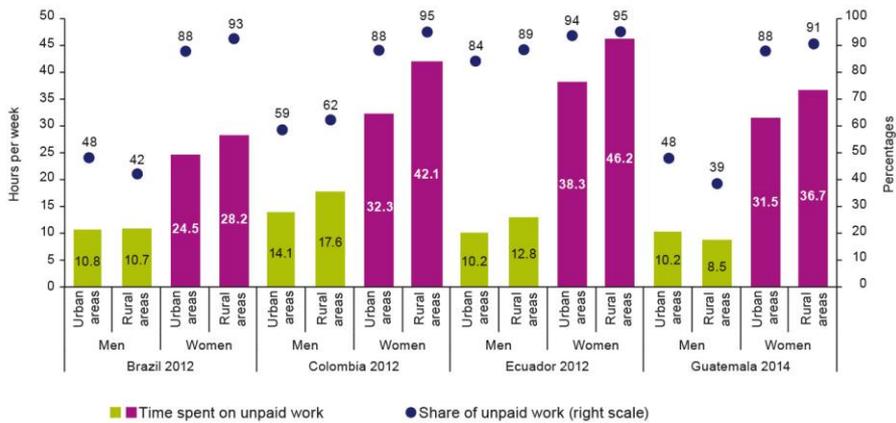
LATIN AMERICA (9 COUNTRIES): PROPORTION OF PAID AND UNPAID WORK PERFORMED BY WOMEN AGED 20 TO 59, BY POVERTY STATUS, AROUND 2014  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## Rural women devote more time to unpaid work than urban women and men in urban and rural areas

LATIN AMERICA (4 COUNTRIES): TIME SPENT ON AND PARTICIPATION IN UNPAID WORK, BY SEX AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA  
(Hours per week and percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from time-use surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## Unpaid work performed by women supports societies and economies, with a value estimated at around a fifth of GDP

LATIN AMERICA (8 COUNTRIES): ECONOMIC VALUE OF UNPAID HOUSEHOLD WORK  
(Percentages of GDP)



(a) The calculation did not involve the bodies governing each country's national accounts (central banks).  
(b) Greater Metropolitan Area.

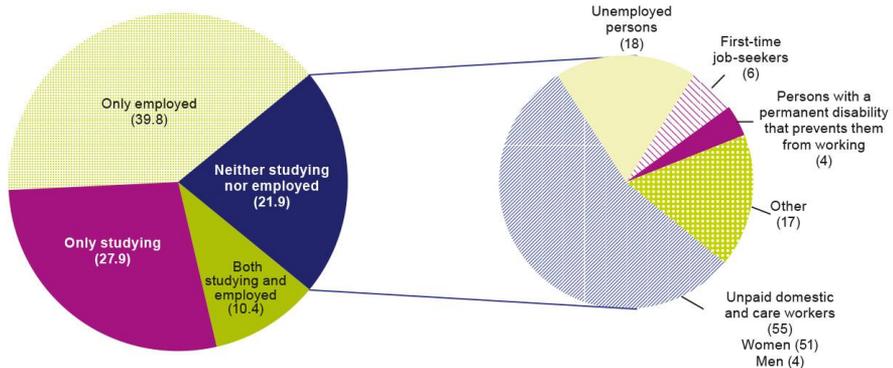
19 countries in the region at least measure time spent on domestic and care work, which is a step towards affording it an economic value



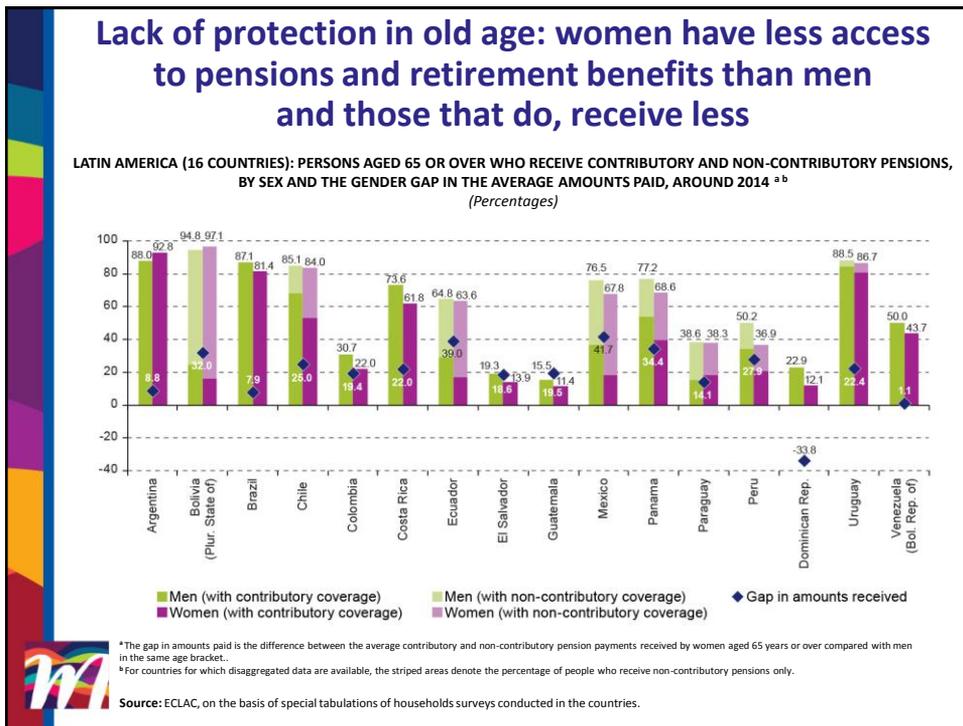
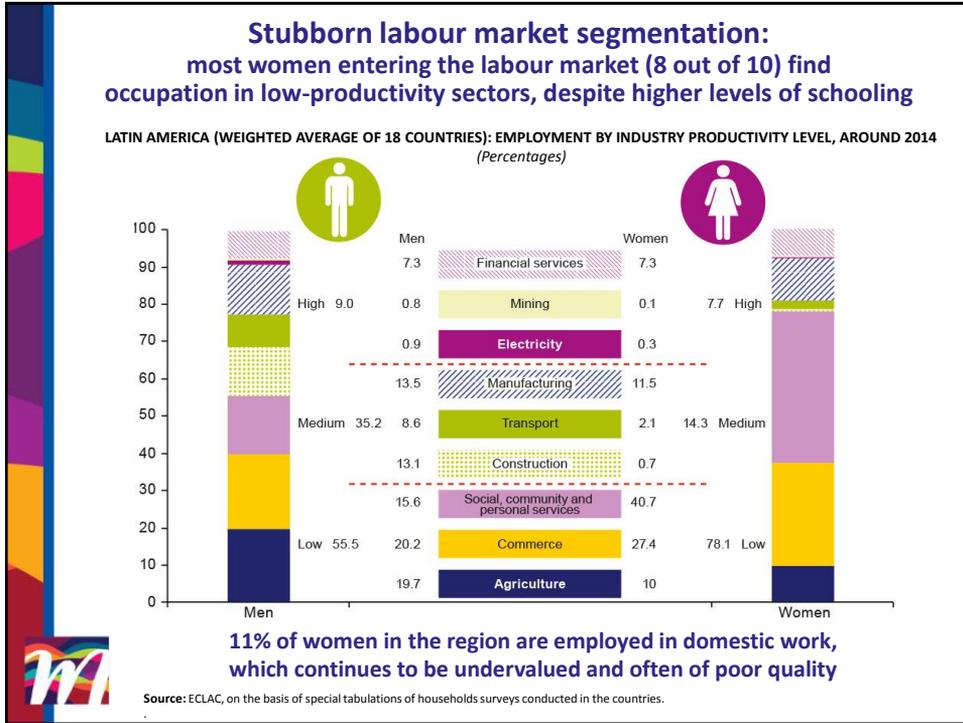
Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of households surveys conducted in the countries.

## Young women who are not in education or paid employment are engaged in unpaid work in their households

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (18 COUNTRIES): ACTIVITY STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 TO 29, AROUND 2014  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of households surveys conducted in the countries.



- The discussions on women's economic rights, autonomy and incomes over the life cycle include the proposal of a **universal basic income**, to guarantee them a minimum monetary income on an equal footing to men. Such an income would be free of conditionalities and carry no cost in terms of time or leverage in the labour market and in the home.

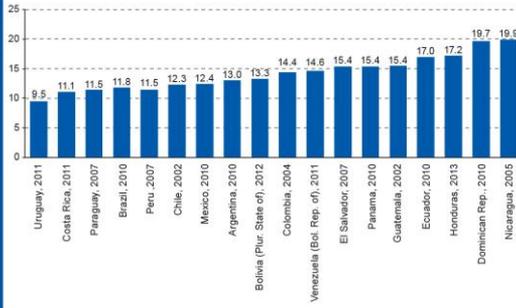


**Physical autonomy, freedom  
and rights**

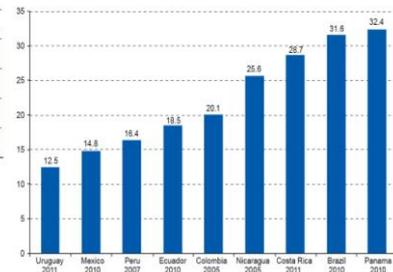


## Adolescent motherhood is an indicator of the deficit in education and sexual and reproductive health, and is higher among indigenous adolescents

**LATIN AMERICA (18 COUNTRIES): ADOLESCENT WOMEN AGED 15-19 WHO ARE MOTHERS, AROUND 2010**  
(Percentages)



**LATIN AMERICA (9 COUNTRIES): INDIGENOUS ADOLESCENTS AGED 15-19 WHO ARE MOTHERS, AROUND 2010**  
(Percentages)

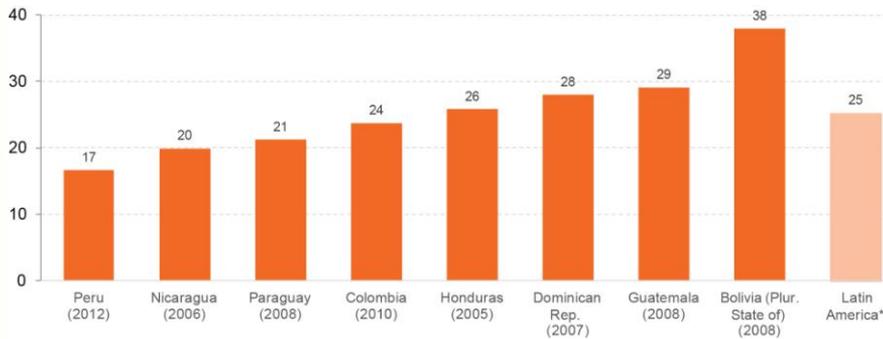


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special processing of population census microdata.



## Significant deficits in informed access to free, good-quality contraception for young people

**LATIN AMERICA (8 COUNTRIES): ADOLESCENT FEMALES AGED 15-19 WITH UNMET FAMILY PLANNING NEEDS, AROUND 2010**  
(Percentages)



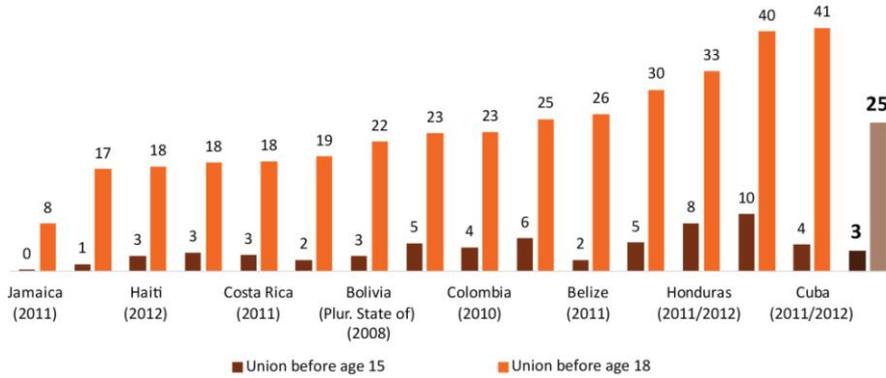
\* Simple average.

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of "STATCompiler: The DHS Program" [online] <http://www.statcompiler.com> [date of reference: December 2015].



## Child and early marriage is bound up with inequalities, gender norms and stereotypes that curtail autonomy from a very early age

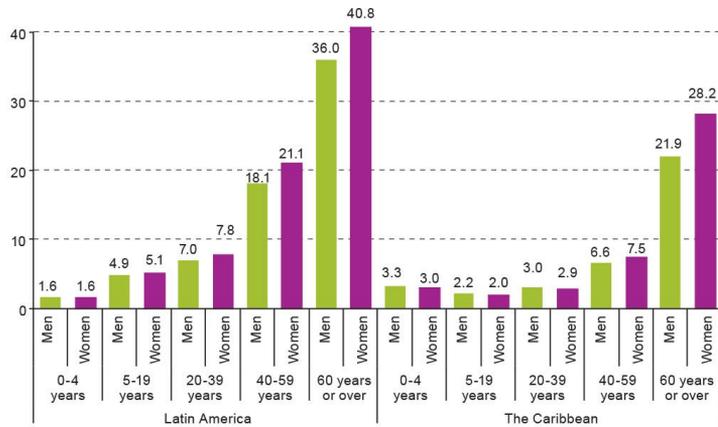
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (15 COUNTRIES): WOMEN AGED 15-19 WHO ENTERED THEIR FIRST UNION BEFORE AGE 15 AND WOMEN AGED 20-24 WHO ENTERED THEIR FIRST UNION BEFORE AGE 18, AROUND 2010  
(Percentages)



Source: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), *Una aproximación a la situación de adolescentes y jóvenes en América Latina y el Caribe a partir de evidencia cuantitativa reciente*, Panama, 2015.

## Higher prevalence of disabilities among women, particularly among older women

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (35 COUNTRIES): PREVALENCE OF DISABILITY BY SEX AND AGE, AROUND 2010  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of national censuses and household and disability surveys, for Latin America.

## Women face greater risks and impacts from extreme events: natural disasters are the main cause of death by injury

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (33 COUNTRIES): DEATHS BY TYPE OF INJURY,  
BY AGE GROUP AND GENDER, 2010  
(Percentages)



Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation [online] <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>.

## Violence against women is not confined to the domestic sphere

### Sexual harassment at work

- Sexual violence at work causes victims to experience psychological and physical problems and work-related stress. It leads to absenteeism, decreases productivity and contributes to a sexist organizational climate.

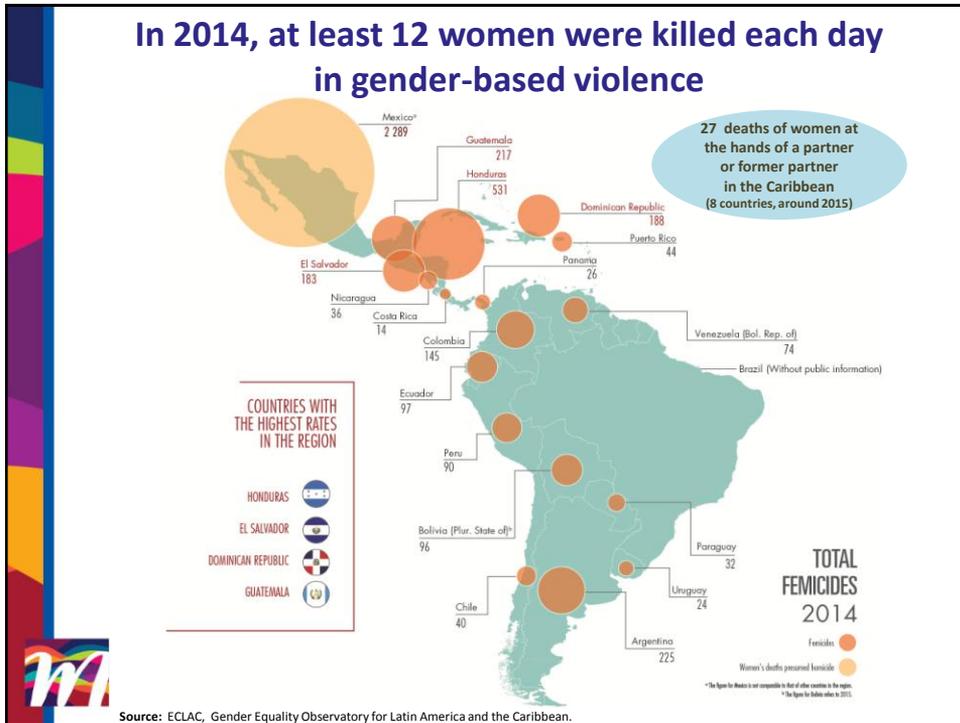
### Harassment on the street and in public transport

- Girls and women are the main victims of harassment on the street and on public transport, which limits their freedom and enjoyment of public spaces.
- In Lima, 9 in 10 women have suffered street harassment (2013).
- 6 in 10 women have experienced sexual aggression on public transport in Bogotá (2014), Chile (2012) and Mexico City (2014).

### Obstetric violence, an expression of institutional violence

- Many women are denied their right to decent and respectful care during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-natal period in the public and private health-care systems.
- The lack of records and non-compliance with the legal and normative framework for preventing violence during pregnancy and childbirth hinders the follow-up of complaints and the prevention of this form of abuse.





## Public investment in combating violence against women is a pillar of progress towards the achievement of sustainable development

- **Public policies with funding to close the gap** between legislative advances (de jure) and the daily reality of the violation of women's rights and physical autonomy (de facto)
- **Shed light on the link between the economy and violence against women** and strengthen its analysis, in order to recognize the cost of such violence for women, the State and society as a whole.

## Women's share in political power and autonomy in decision-making processes



### Autonomy in decision-making processes and the exercise of power: an unpaid debt

Despite the progress made, women hold less than 30% of decision-making positions

LATIN AMERICA: WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS, REGIONAL AVERAGES, MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE  
(Percentages)



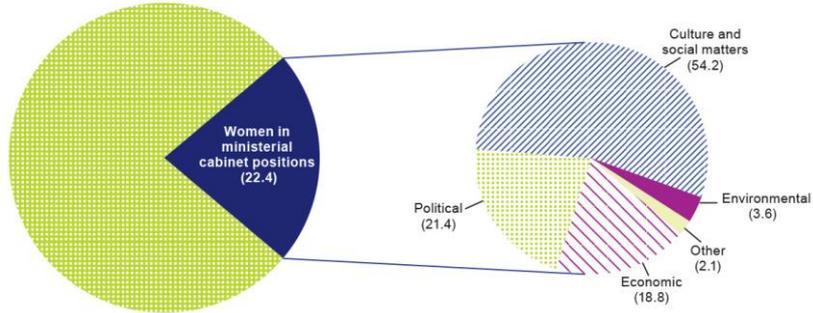
Source: ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <http://oig.cepal.org/en>.



## Women continue to hold ministerial portfolios mainly in social spheres

Women's involvement in their countries' international relations could help strengthen cooperation in the framework of the regional gender agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: <sup>a</sup> WOMEN IN MINISTERIAL CABINETS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR PORTFOLIOS, 2014 <sup>b</sup>  
(Percentages)



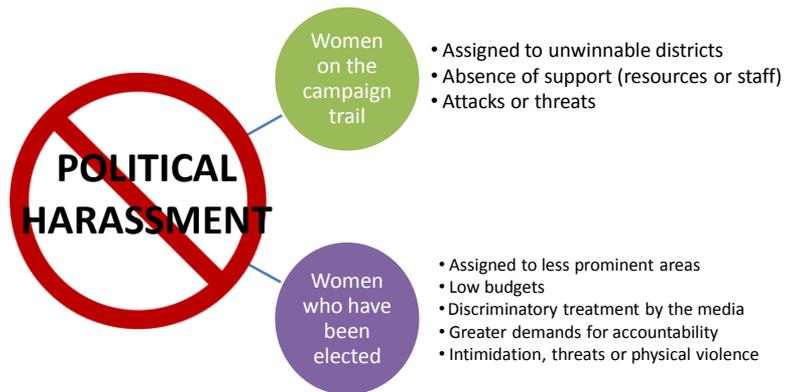
<sup>a</sup> Simple average for 31 countries.

<sup>b</sup> Latest government administration with data available.

Source: ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <http://oig.cepal.org/en>.

## Parity-based access to political decision-making spheres has been hindered by obstacles that have been hidden until very recently

- Political harassment threatens the achievement of equality and women's autonomy
- Only four countries are currently debating legislation against political harassment and violence: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru
- The only country that has passed a law against political harassment and violence towards women is the Plurinational State of Bolivia, with Law No. 243 of 2012



## Stronger mechanisms are needed to increase women's presence in political power

- **Moving from quotas to parity democracy** as a governing principle of politics, decision-making and dialogue, encompassing temporary affirmative action, equality as a goal, better redistribution of power and deepening of democracy
- **Public financing for politics** as a tool for equality, helping to narrow the gap between parties and candidates with greater resources and stronger support and those without, in order to strengthen women's chances of competing, promote transparency and raise barriers to corruption
- **Boosting women's collective action** in peace processes, democracy and development



## Towards innovative and effective gender equality policies



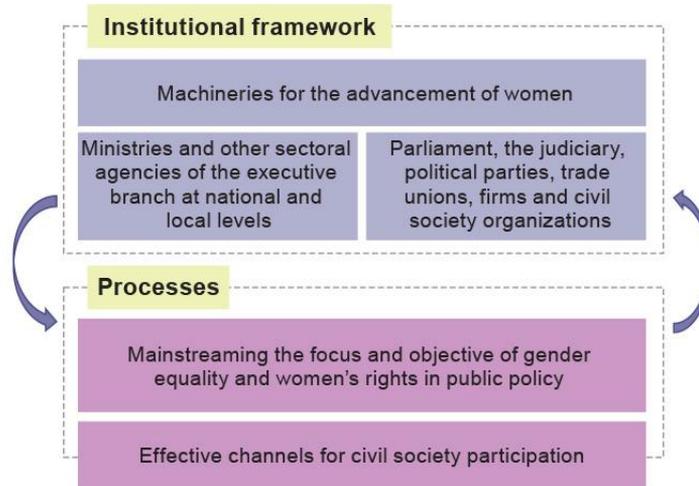
## Gender equality and women's autonomy demand public policy innovation at the heart of an inclusive State

Three elements of policy sustainability and efficiency:

- A gender equality architecture made up of institutions and processes
- Planning, management and budgeting with a view to ensuring gender equality and fulfilment of rights
- Dialogues and compacts, engaging civil society as a condition for the sustainability of public policies on equality



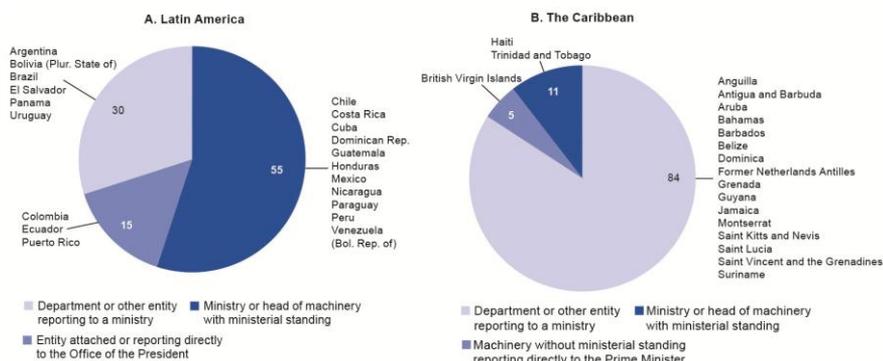
## Gender equality architecture



Source: ECLAC.

## Strengthening machineries for the advancement of women is an ongoing challenge: ensuring their sustainability over time, locking in progress and preventing backsliding

**LEVEL WITHIN GOVERNMENT HIERARCHY OF NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN, 2016**  
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] <http://oig.cepal.org/en>.

## Gender equality plans must form part of national development plans —consistently with the SDGs— if real sustainable development with gender equality is to be achieved

**LATIN AMERICA: LEGISLATIVE BASIS FOR GENDER EQUALITY PLANS**

Type of legislation	Countries
Executive decree	Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay
Mandates of gender entities	Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Paraguay and Peru
Mandate of the national development plan	Colombia
Mandate under the Constitution	Ecuador
Management tool of the entity responsible for gender affairs	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Chile

**The data revolution and the production of statistics on gender play a key role in the design, implementation and follow-up of development plans**

Source: ECLAC.

## The 2030 horizon with equality, autonomy and rights

- Synergies are urgently needed to dismantle the structural causes of inequality and discrimination, linking up the 2030 Agenda, CEDAW and the regional gender agenda.
- Equality requires the exercise of autonomy and guarantee of rights, considering that they are all interrelated.
- Unresolved issues must be tackled without delay (violence against women, sexual and reproductive rights, political participation, labour market barriers).
- Emerging problems call for a bold approach: production shifts, demographic changes, urban development, care, technologies, climate change and environmental conflicts.
- The demise of the current development model requires a social and political alliance with a transformative and innovative vision, leading to a path that guarantees rights, equality and autonomy for all women.



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