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Ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**



## A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

### 1. Mandate and functions

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and is convened in compliance with the mandates contained in the Regional Plan of Action (1977).<sup>1</sup> The Conference meets periodically at intervals of no more than three years.<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Plan of Action and the agreements adopted by Governments, it fulfils the following functions:

- To determine regional and subregional needs for technical assistance and give support to all United Nations bodies operating in the region to enable them to meet those needs;
- To put forward recommendations to Governments and to ECLAC itself based on studies carried out by the secretariat on the most feasible way of implementing the agreements adopted by United Nations regional conferences;
- To review and appraise periodically the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies;
- To evaluate periodically the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001;
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information to facilitate mutual coordination and support for programmes designed to promote gender mainstreaming and the integration of women into the economic and social development process at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share relevant experience.

### 2. Purposes of the session

The ninth session of the Regional Conference also has the function of reviewing the implementation of the international commitments undertaken in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the sixth session of the Regional Conference in 1994 and reaffirmed in 2000 in the Lima Consensus. The ninth session of the Regional Conference will

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<sup>1</sup> See ECLAC, Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, November 1977, paragraphs 87 and 88.

<sup>2</sup> In view of the need to harmonize regional follow-up to the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, with the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the countries participating in the thirty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference recommended that consideration should be given to the possibility of postponing the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean until 2004 so that it could be linked up with the global process. See ECLAC, Report of the thirty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, San José, Costa Rica, 19 and 20 April 2001, agreement 3.

also give the participants an opportunity to agree on the regional input to be provided to the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2005.

## **B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **1. Election of officers**

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, who will serve as such until new Presiding Officers are chosen at the following session.

In accordance with the criteria established by the Presiding Officers,<sup>3</sup> every effort will be made to ensure that the new Presiding Officers are chosen with due regard for the principles of adequate geographical distribution and rotation. The Presiding Officers consider it necessary to refer to the subject of regular attendance at meetings as “a commitment that countries must make” if they are to serve on that body.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The delegations will consider the provisional agenda and will organize the work of the Conference.

The Conference will have before it the following provisional agenda for its consideration:<sup>4</sup>

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Activities carried out by the ECLAC secretariat and the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean since the eighth session of the Regional Conference
4. Poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity

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<sup>3</sup> See ECLAC, Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (LC/G.1855), Santiago, Chile, January 1995, chapter E; and Report of the fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.02), Santiago, Chile, 1983, which recommends the following: “(a) to put into practice the principle of rotation of duties of the Presiding Officers among the member countries of ECLA; (b) in order to provide greater facility and effectiveness to their functioning, to reduce the number of ... Presiding Officers to the offices of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur; (c) to seek adequate geographical distribution, including as Presiding Officers representatives of Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Group and the Southern Cone”.

<sup>4</sup> LC/L.2106 (CRM.9/1).

5. Empowerment, institution-building and gender equity
6. Activities commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
7. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference
8. Other matters

The Conference will organize its work in accordance with the proposal made by the Presiding Officers at their thirty-fifth meeting that the work should “be divided into three forums: an ongoing plenary meeting and two parallel thematic meetings on each of the two thematic areas tentatively referred to as poverty, economy and gender equity and empowerment, institution-building and gender equity”.<sup>5</sup> In compliance with this agreement, it is proposed that two panels open to all delegations should meet simultaneously on 11 June to facilitate the discussions on the two issues selected for detailed consideration by the Conference, corresponding to agenda items 4 and 5.

The working paper prepared by ECLAC on these topics, entitled “Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean” (LC/L.2114(CRM.9/3)), will be introduced at the plenary meeting to be held on the afternoon of 10 June.

### **3. Activities carried out by the ECLAC secretariat and the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean since the eighth session of the Regional Conference**

The Chairperson of the Presiding Officers will report to the participants on the activities carried out by the Presiding Officers since the eighth session of the Regional Conference. To complement this information, the delegations will have before them the reports of the five meetings held by the outgoing Presiding Officers.<sup>6</sup>

The States members of the Conference will present the national reports prepared in response to the questionnaire sent to Governments on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the agreements adopted at the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”.

The ECLAC secretariat will report to the delegations on its activities since the eighth session of the Regional Conference. The delegations will have before them the corresponding activities report.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the “Report on activities at the Caribbean subregional level to support the integration of a gender

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<sup>5</sup> Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1944(MDM.35/4)), ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, July 2003, agreement 13.

<sup>6</sup> See the reports of the following meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: thirty-first (LC/L.1468(MDM.31/4)), thirty-second (LC/L.1536(MDM.32/3)), thirty-third (LC/L.1654(MDM.33/4)), thirty-fourth (LC/L.1857(MDM.34/3)) and thirty-fifth (LC/L.1944(MDM.35/4)).

<sup>7</sup> Activities of the ECLAC secretariat to support the integration of a gender perspective in the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean (1 January 2000 to 31 December 2003) (LC/L.2083(CRM.9/4)).

perspective in the social and economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean (September 1999 to December 2003)” (LC/L.2083(CRM.9/4)/Add.1) will be presented.

In accordance with agreement 6 adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference at their thirty-fourth meeting, which reaffirmed the role of the Presiding Officers in bearing primary responsibility for monitoring the project on democratic governance and gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat will present the main results of this project.<sup>8</sup>

#### **4. Poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity**

The government representatives, at one of the plenary meetings, will present their substantive comments on the working paper entitled “Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean” (LC/L.2114(CRM.9/3)), in particular the chapter on poverty and economic autonomy.

In accordance with the organization of work, this item will be examined in greater depth in one of the panel discussions, in which the item will be considered on the basis of presentations made by guest speakers invited by ECLAC.

#### **5. Empowerment, institution-building and gender equity**

The government representatives, at one of the plenary meetings, will present their substantive comments on the working paper entitled “Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean” (LC/L.2114(CRM.9/3)), in particular the chapter on empowerment and institutional development.

In accordance with the organization of work, this item will be examined in greater depth in one of the panel discussions, in which the item will be considered on the basis of presentations made by guest speakers invited by ECLAC.

#### **6. Activities commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

The secretariat will present a comparative analysis of the responses received by ECLAC and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to the questionnaire sent to Governments on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the agreements adopted at the special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”.

The delegation of Cuba will report on the activities and recommendations of the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1-12 March 2004) and the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the review of the implementation of the agreements adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

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<sup>8</sup> Report of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1857(MDM.34/3)), ECLAC, February 2003, agreement 6.

The representative of the Equipo operativo hacia Beijing + 10 de redes y campañas regionales (Beijing + 10 task force of regional networks and campaigns) will present the statement issued by the alternative women's forum of civil-society and social organizations, which will meet in Mexico City in the days preceding the ninth session of the Regional Conference.

**7. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference**

The proposed agreements that will be submitted to the Conference for consideration will be aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action.

**8. Other matters**

Under this item, the delegations will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.

In addition, the secretariat will report on the preparations for the thirtieth session of ECLAC, which will be held in Puerto Rico from 28 June to 2 July 2004.

