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**REPORT OF THE SUBREGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR SOUTH AMERICA:
TOWARDS THE NINTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Brasilia, Brazil, 23 and 24 March 2004

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Subregional Preparatory Meeting for South America: Towards the Ninth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 23 and 24 March 2004 in Brasilia, Brazil, pursuant to agreements 15 and 17 as adopted at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 April 2003.¹

Attendance

2. Representatives of the following States members of the Commission from the subregion participated in the meeting: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Mexico was also represented as an observer.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives and experts from the following organizations: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).²

Chairperson and rapporteur

4. The meeting was chaired by the representative of Brazil. The duties of rapporteur were performed by the delegation of Chile.

Organization of work

5. The work was organized as follows:

1. Opening session
2. Statement on behalf of civil society
3. Theme 1: Poverty, economics and gender equity
4. Theme 2: Empowerment, institution-building and gender equity

¹ ECLAC (2003), *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)

² See the list of participants (annex 1).

5. Group work: Towards the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Recommendations and conclusions

Documentation

6. A preliminary version of the document *Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean* and other publications related to the subject in question were distributed. They were also made available on the web site of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC.³

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

7. At the opening session, statements were made by the Minister of the Secretariat for Women's Policies of Brazil, Nilcéa Freire; the Director of the ECLAC Office in Brazil, Renato Baumann; and the interim Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ambassador Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães Neto.

8. The Minister of the Secretariat for Women's Policies of Brazil expressed her satisfaction that her country was hosting the meeting. She described the situation at the end of the 1960s and the periods of backwardness that had left the region so far away from the dream of integration. The present meeting was part of the Brazilian Government's efforts to formulate an agenda based on solidarity and autonomy, and women were aware of the part they could play in achieving that new reality. Progress had been considerable but the challenges were enormous, as the latter paradoxically increased in proportion to the victories achieved. Those challenges were represented in the two themes chosen for the meeting: poverty, economics and gender equity; and empowerment, institution-building and gender equity. Thirty years following the first World Conference on Women, much progress had been made, yet women were still the largest group among the unemployed, received lower wages for the same jobs, had to cope with domestic violence and were failing to appropriate central issues in national policies. By creating the Secretariat for Women's Policies, the Brazilian Government had restated its commitment to the international agreements it had signed and its willingness to deal with gender and race inequalities in an affirmative way. Also, the National Congress and Executive had declared 2004 as women's year in Brazil and were planning to hold the first national conference on women's policies in July 2004. That conference was the culmination of a great deal of effort, because many issues were already familiar to women's and feminist movements and the Government. Yet it was also a starting point, because guidelines for formulating women's policies could be established and used as instruments for furthering the struggle and for transforming demands into public policy.

9. The Director of the ECLAC Office in Brazil welcomed participants and said that, in the light of its history and basic mandate, ECLAC was concerned with analysing, accompanying and understanding the process of economic and social growth in the region. Some themes were always present in the Commission's thinking and were simply adapted to the moment in time, such as international integration of Latin America and the Caribbean and absorption of technical progress and equity. The gender

³ See list of documents in annex 2. The website of the Women and Development Unit is <http://www.eclac.cl>.

dimension had arisen in the context of the latter theme during the 1970s, and more specifically 1977, when it was already part of the Commission's work programme. The gender dimension had always been special because it was part of a wider field of concern linked to development and the way of thinking in the region. During the third and final subregional preparatory meeting for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC was presenting a document assessing the gender situation and showing the progress achieved to date and the remaining challenges. That document was based on contributions from other subregional meetings and virtual forums and sought to accurately represent the reality of the region. Also, the discussion was to be broader, as it would include the Millennium Development Goals, the world's frame of reference in terms of the effort to combat poverty. The speaker concluded by reiterating the Commission's satisfaction with the organization of the meeting and by calling for discussions to be fruitful and productive.

10. Brazil's interim Minister for Foreign Affairs said he felt honoured to be involved in the meeting and stated that it was a fundamental challenge for Brazilian society to slowly but surely overcome racial, social and gender inequalities in order to integrate into the economy the millions of Brazilians who were living below the poverty line and enduring unacceptable conditions and the various forms of violence that characterized inequality. In approaching such problems, it was vital to consider not only the victims but also the beneficiaries, given that the latter would always attempt to remain in the same situation. The struggle to overcome inequalities would definitely come up against the resistance of those who most benefited and who would devise justifications, in the context of States and society in general, in order to maintain the status quo. Women were more than familiar with that phenomenon; hence the great importance of the present meeting for continuing the struggle. In Brazil, as in many other countries in the region, several women had been appointed as ministers or secretaries of state, and this had great symbolic value for society. He concluded by wishing the participants well in their work and said he hoped it would contribute to the cause of equality for women.

Statement on behalf of civil society

11. The representative of Articulação de Mulheres Negras Brasileiras (Network of Organizations of Black Brazilian Women) read out the declaration of women's and feminist organizations. The declaration stated that, after 10 years of contributions towards implementing the Platform for Action, Governments still lacked the political will and resources needed for its successful implementation. The prevailing economic model had devastating consequences for peoples and the sovereignty of nations, affected the lives of women in particular and resulted in increasing poverty. Governments had not taken the appropriate measures to guarantee equity and inclusion in the face of sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination. Furthermore, the lives and opportunities of women continued to be seriously affected by unsafe abortions, armed conflicts and growing migration. The speaker concluded by saying that the road towards implementing the Platform for Action, which represented the hopes and expectations of millions of women and peoples committed to democracy, should include dialogue with civil society, the allocation of substantive resources and, above all, the political will of the Governments of the region.

Theme 1: Poverty, economics and gender equity

12. The Chief of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC presented the first part of the document *Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which contained a diagnosis of the situation in terms of poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity. Unlike what had happened with the five-year review of progress towards implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, when

regional perspectives had not been included in the document approved by the General Assembly, the region's recommendations would be included in the final document for the purposes of the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform. Furthermore, the preparation of the document had been coordinated with the documentation of other summits, such as the Open-ended Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC Sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, and the Millennium Development Goals had been used as a framework for the commitments to be undertaken.

13. As for the scope of the document, a major concern was the impact of globalization on gender equity, which had influenced the choice of the theme "poverty and economics" on the part of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference. For methodological reasons, however, the issue of poverty had been limited to economic autonomy, given that the document was intended to be supported by empirical information and comparative studies, which were not available in that case. She called on delegations to contribute national case studies to supplement that part of the document and to provide input with a view to formulating a research agenda.

14. The speaker described what had happened during the previous decade and referred to women's increased involvement in the labour market (in fact, women had higher participation rates than men) and to women's high levels of educational achievement. Despite these successes, however, there were considerable differences between countries, especially those with indigenous and Afro-descendent groups. In that sense, there remained preconceived ideas that hampered development: the assumption that economic development and universal education inevitably improved the situation of women, and the supposed capacity of legislative reforms and cultural changes to overcome gender inequality. Although those theories were partially valid, national experiences showed that they were insufficient and that greater attention needed to be paid to implementation, mechanisms and strategies.

15. The current conception of poverty was based on household income, which was a synthetic indicator that tended to equalize what was actually unequal at the individual level. The household, as a unit of analysis, did not reflect its internal distribution, in which 50% of women did not have their own source of income after the age of 15. That pointed to a problem of economic autonomy from the standpoint not only of empowerment but also of an opportunity to escape poverty. Women's vulnerability to poverty was a theme that had been given central importance in the document.

16. The speaker concluded the presentation of the preliminary diagnostic analysis by pointing out that, despite the increase in social spending in the region and increased efficiency in public investment, such efforts had not resulted in differentiated effects on men and women. An attempt would be made to have more intersectoral data for the final version of the document. In terms of the priority lines of action for the future, she mentioned the formulation of public policies in the areas of labour and employment, the extension of studies and measures of time use and domestic work, and the promotion of a theoretical debate between economic policy makers and those responsible for gender equity mechanisms. She also referred to the need to deepen the analysis of the link between violence, economic autonomy and poverty; freedom of choice in reproductive processes; the growing incidence of poverty among women; and the prevalence of occupational segmentation despite women's rapid integration into the labour market.

17. The representatives of United Nations bodies expressed their satisfaction for the conceptual contribution and diagnostic analysis included in the document presented by the secretariat. They agreed with the importance of employment in terms of gender inequality and the struggle against poverty, as well as the need for institutional reinforcement of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and a consolidation of the concern for gender equity in national public policies. Also vital was coordination with other bodies for the implementation of innovative experiments affecting gender equity, such as

programmes regarding violence, governance, HIV, migration and participatory budgets with a gender perspective.

18. The delegates congratulated ECLAC for the diagnostic work reflected in the document, which provided a more concrete overall vision of the situation, despite data limitations. They generally agreed that, despite the achievements to date, there remained the political and cultural challenge of mainstreaming women's aspirations and rights. Many participants gave examples of problems they had encountered on that level and mentioned the slowness of national processes.

19. Several delegations emphasized the need for the report to be more specific about the links between violence, poverty and gender in order to have a starting point for measurement. They also noted that the document did not relate the increase in women's schooling with their participation in the labour market, given that they mainly entered service sectors, which were the lowest paid. The secretariat subsequently explained the reason for the lack and attributed it to a problem concerning the availability of information. One delegation pointed out that it would be important to have differentiated studies for various groups, such as women employed formally and informally, by level of schooling and other variables, in order to formulate and apply different strategies for each group.

20. There was consensus about the fact that fiscal restraint was the order of the day in the countries of the region. The document needed to recognize the economic limitations faced by countries in order to develop better data and policy inputs, in conjunction with ministries of finance, which could enable them to tackle the problem and respond to the demand.

21. As far as policies on poverty were concerned, several delegations mentioned that it was time to do away with the traditional image of women as subjects of welfare policies and advance towards a recognition of women as subjects of public policy. Policies on poverty were not able to integrate social protection policies. There should be an integral policy that would constitute basic social policy; hence the importance of linking poverty policies with women's access to their basic rights. It was also vital to study the factors limiting the exercise of those rights, not only globally but also in terms of the consequences in women's private lives.

22. The debate made it clear that equality of access was not sufficient: it was essential to monitor equality of results in terms of the situations of men and women. Achieving this would involve policies of affirmative action as a means of tackling poverty, and not only in the areas of political participation and decision-making. That included reconciling family life with professional and public life, which would be further analysed at the following session on empowerment.

23. Reference was also made to countries' concern for the situation of certain groups of women, mainly those displaced by armed conflict and indigenous and Afro-descendent women, whose problems made the regional situation all the more serious.

Theme 2: Empowerment, institution-building and gender equity

24. The Chief of the ECLAC Women and Development Unit presented the second part of the document *Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean*, related to the theme of empowerment, institution building and gender equity. She said that, despite the abundance of studies, there was a serious shortage of extremely relevant information about such matters as the situation in terms of decision-making in the judiciary, the business world and other areas. An exhaustive review had been

carried out of household surveys, censuses, government reports and specific studies. Nevertheless, countries could definitely make an important contribution in that area, particularly in the form of case studies on decision-making in private enterprises and experiences with reconciling family and professional lives.

25. With reference to unremunerated domestic work performed by women, she said that the document attempted to give new social, cultural and economic meaning to that work by arguing that activities such as child rearing, the provision of affection and family life could not be reduced to a mercantile relationship. Even if the State provided services in those areas, the appropriate measurement should not be a monetary or economic one; that was why it was important to measure the amount of time that was spent in order to assess the value of the domestic work done by women. It was necessary to adopt a political economy perspective rather than viewing development as simply a macroeconomic phenomenon.

26. The situation with respect to the institutional framework in the region was heterogeneous. Advances had been made, since most of the countries now had mechanisms for dealing with gender issues, but growing difficulties were being encountered in seeking to mainstream the gender perspective and in negotiating critical issues on the political agenda. The situation was also precarious, not only due to the constant cutting of financial resources as a result of structural changes and budget restrictions, but also because of changes of government, which invariably called into question the legitimacy and very existence of such mechanisms.

27. Programmes to combat poverty were better targeted, yet it was indispensable to eliminate the view of women as being chosen as beneficiaries for supposedly displaying, in essence, the virtues of honesty and greater commitment to the well-being of the family. That made them vulnerable to criticism of unsatisfactory management of such programmes.

28. Advances included the growing participation of national women's machineries in constitutional reform processes and in initiatives linked to health system reforms, the continuing increase of women's representation in parliament and developments in legislation concerning domestic violence. Most women's ministries were tasked with more structural challenges rather than small projects and were working towards influencing national plans and the budget in terms of the fundamental debate rather than merely short-term issues. The problem was often more a lack of political force power than the absence of conceptual instruments or studies. Networks needed to be bolstered to take part in such a major reform of the State. Leaders of women's movements who had entered government through mechanisms for the advancement of women had gone on to work on programmes in other ministries thanks to their social and institutional experience in promoting development. Achievements should be identified and more ambitious challenges should then be drawn from each success.

29. Delegations expressed their concern about targeted policies to combat poverty, since they had both positive effects, such as empowering women in the implementation of programmes, and negative ones, such as the appropriation of women's productive time on the basis of the most traditional stereotypes of their role in society. To a certain extent, State public policies to combat poverty could not be left entirely in the hands of women's organizations; there was a non-transferable area of State responsibility. It was necessary to strengthen the growing State gender networks. However, that was not only needed in terms of State institutions, but was also required as part of regional integration processes such as MERCOSUR and the Economic and Social Consultative Forum.

30. One delegate suggested deeper and more systematic reflection concerning the various poverty eradication initiatives implemented by countries in the region. Intervention was required in all aspects, but especially in the changes being brought about by State modernization policies. She also mentioned new elements, such as the important role of the media, which needed to be included in national strategies and links with civil society.

31. Various delegations underlined how important it was for the development of gender equity policies for the State and civil society to relate to each other and to employ effective cooperation mechanisms. Even within government, the situation with respect to women's machineries was vulnerable and fragile, thereby threatening gender equality. It was highly important to strengthen those institutions, since their fragility was due to the fact that some sectors considered such mechanisms to be nothing more than providers of social services. As a result, it was vital to have the consensus of civil society to work together on influencing major national reforms through alliances and joint strategies.

32. Many delegations described achievements and setbacks that depended on political will and the increasingly difficult situation concerning budgets allocated to women's issues. The concern for women in politics and their access to and exercise of power was an issue that had a long road ahead of itself in overcoming the difficulties and having an impact on the public agenda. There was a call for the reinforcement of women in their capacity as citizens, subjects of policy rather than policy objects. There was much to be done in terms of legislation: there had been progress but there were still traditional forces that opposed the enforcement of women's rights. That required action within political parties and within government, and made it doubly important to strengthen the institutionalization and capacity for action of women's movements.

33. Another new theme that emerged was migration and trafficking in human beings, particularly women. Migration policies should be devised on the basis of human rights in their entirety.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

34. The following text was adopted:

The delegations participating in the subregional meeting for South America preparatory to the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, on 23 and 24 March 2004, pursuant to agreements 15 and 17 adopted at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, Cuba, in April 2003, adopted the following text setting forth their conclusions and recommendations:

Considering that the objectives of this meeting were to analyse the position paper prepared by ECLAC for presentation at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to decide on the organization of the work for that session of the Conference,

Agree:

1. To welcome the preliminary version of the document prepared by the ECLAC secretariat entitled *Roads and short cuts towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean*;

2. To reiterate the relevance of the two central themes of poverty, economics and gender equity and of empowerment, institution-building and political participation, on the basis of which the document was prepared and the work of the ninth session of the Regional Conference will be organized;
3. To draw attention to the procedure used in preparing the above-mentioned document, whereby the Governments of the States members of the Regional Conference on Women were able to analyse the preliminary version thereof, enrich it and add elements that reflect a subregional perspective, as in the case of this meeting for South America;
4. To entrust the ECLAC secretariat with the task of supplementing and enriching the above-mentioned document for presentation at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, based on the main points of agreement which emerged during this subregional meeting, particularly with regard to the following issues: the links between women's education and their participation in the labour market, child care, poverty and violence, armed conflict and displaced women, migratory phenomena, trafficking in persons, sexual harassment and abuse, sexual exploitation, reproductive health and rights, citizenship and civil-society participation in public policies, gender and the mass media, new technologies and indigenous and Afro-descendent groups;
5. To transmit the official information and national studies necessary for implementation of agreement No. 4 above to the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC by 10 April 2004;
6. To transmit also to the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC by 10 April 2004 suggestions as to national experts who could participate as speakers in the work of the ninth session of the Conference;
7. To draw attention to the participation in this meeting of representatives of civil-society organizations;
8. To reassert the commitment to provide an opportunity at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for a representative of civil society to present the regional consensus reached by non-governmental organizations;
9. To reassert the commitment of participating Governments to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;
10. To consolidate and strengthen the institutional framework for gender in the countries of the subregion, so that national machineries for the advancement of women will have a permanent status and their own identity and will be given the hierarchical rank and the resources they need to fulfil their mandates;
11. To intensify the initiatives being taken in the subregion to ensure the genuine mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all areas of State action, particularly in the legislative sphere and in institutional reforms;

12. To make efforts to include the gender perspective in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of public policies for combating poverty;
13. To request the secretariat to include, on the research and policy agenda that will accompany the position paper to be presented at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women, the conclusions of the working groups that appear in annexes 1 and 2 to these agreements;
14. To thank ILO for its offer to make available, for use in the preparatory process for the ninth session of the Regional Conference, the results of its studies under the project on gender, poverty and employment;
15. To thank UNIFEM for its offer to make available, for use in the preparatory process for the ninth session of the Regional Conference, the results of its studies on violence in the region, poverty, governance and the Millennium Development Goals, and to thank UNIFEM for providing support to enable representatives of civil-society organizations to take part in that session of the Conference;
16. To respond by the deadline set by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to the questionnaire sent to countries on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);
17. To recommend that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their thirty-sixth meeting, to be held on 9 June 2004, should agree that, based on their experience with the virtual forum held at the initiative of the ECLAC secretariat in preparation for this subregional meeting, the Presiding Officers elected at the ninth session of the Regional Conference should hold only one face-to-face meeting and two virtual meetings per year;
18. To report on the outcome of this subregional meeting and on the status of preparations for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to their respective ministries of foreign affairs;
19. To recognize and express appreciation for the efforts being made by the Government of Mexico and the ECLAC secretariat to ensure the success of the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to take place in Mexico City from 10 to 12 June 2004;
20. To thank the Government of Brazil for its hospitality and for the facilities made available to participating delegations at this subregional meeting.

Group conclusions

Group 1: Poverty, economics and gender equity

The delegations of Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador and Brazil considered the following points and identified the main achievements, obstacles and challenges listed below:

1. Despite important advances in terms of women's involvement in the sphere of public policy, the model for combating poverty in the region had thus far not succeeded in altering imbalances in income distribution.
2. Sectoral policies had not had the desired result in terms of participation in structural policy and global strategy, which should be in keeping with development policy.
3. The minimalist model of the State and privatization policies, which had led to an expansion of the informal sector of the labour market and made it more precarious by transferring the responsibilities for generating income and employment to civil society organizations, had not proved a successful strategy in terms of economic autonomy or overcoming poverty for wide sectors of society, including women.

Achievements:

- Women's increased access to the formal education system
- Progress in national legislation
- A more holistic and complete understanding of gender issues that has led to the accumulation of reflections, a critical mass, conducive to the formulation of proposals
- Contributions to practices likely to have the most effect in the struggle against poverty, nuanced in the light of diversity
- Validation of the action strategies of the women's movement, which serve as a reference for other groups, such as indigenous peoples and those of African descent
- Greater access to the labour market.

Obstacles

- Measuring opportunities for access to formal education on the basis of both the amount of time women stay in the educational system and their effect on working conditions and career advancement
- Gaps between rights conferred under legislation and the exercise of those rights, particularly access to ownership of land and production credit
- Distance between the opportunities offered by technological development and the real situation in terms of women appropriating the benefits of communication technology and science
- The transfer of resources to pay the external debt and the unfair conditions of international trade were a concrete difficulty faced by public investment, in general, and in terms of gender, in particular.

Challenges

- Increasing the amount of time women remained in the educational system and improving the development of strategies for combating functional illiteracy, ensuring the inclusion of teenage mothers and raising women's cultural level
- Implementing policies to guarantee equal wages and career advancement/promotion for women
- Furthering women's participation in politics
- Strengthening gender mainstreaming and generating conditions to allow the relevant institutions to influence to influence major legal, fiscal, presidential, educational and financial-system reforms
- Influencing policies on market regulation and business practices from a gender perspective
- Formulating a regional methodology for working with the principle of gender mainstreaming
- Reinforcing the capacity of regional bodies such as ECLAC to continue providing critical analyses of gender issues in the region
- Formulating remedial policies to correct the negative effects on women of health and social security reforms carried out in countries on the region, where appropriate

Areas of research

- Progress in the reformulation of educational indicators, not only in terms of access but also on the basis of results
- Measurement of gaps existing between different groups of the same gender according to factors such as race, ethnic group, age, urban/rural area, and migrant/refugee status
- Compilation and comparative analysis of gender statistics at regional the level
- Disaggregated statistics on women's use of time and the real dimension of the concept of free time and its use to satisfy the needs of others, whether in the context of the family or the State
- Information on the aspirations and needs of women as a function of the design of regional diagnostic studies and analysis
- Impact of social welfare policies

Group 2: Empowerment, institution-building and political participation

In the course of the discussion, it was established that there were shortcomings in the process of building a regional identity, although there were regional processes of gender mainstreaming and regional circles of influence. Various processes and actions were being developed simultaneously, but more time is needed for the process to be consolidated.

Three main achievements in the region

1. The fact that almost all countries in the region have institutional human rights mechanisms and policies for the advancement of women that provide opportunities for strengthening the process of building equality
2. In various areas, a legal framework that incorporates equality between men and women
3. Quota policies and the debate on quota policy projects and political participation of women in all countries of the region
4. Other achievements:
 - Intersectoral work carried out by women's machineries.
 - Relationship between existing mechanisms and civil society.
 - Progress related to the concepts of gender equality and equity.

Future public policy challenges for institutional mechanisms

- Considering gender mainstreaming as a public policy
- Developing a political culture of gender that results in or influences the formulation and implementation of policies to encourage politicians to incorporate a gender perspective into their speeches and actions
- Working more directly with women at the grassroots level to communicate with them and to inform and train them in relation to aspects such as strengthening their efforts to maintain institutional mechanisms and achievements and stepping up actions in favour of gender equality
- Guaranteeing that what was expressed in national and international agreements is respected in women's everyday lives by ensuring that those commitments are incorporated into society
- Transforming the concern for gender equity into a characteristic of citizenship
- Developing strategies for decentralizing the formulation and implementation of policies at the various levels of government
- Generating stability, social support, legitimacy and resources for institutional mechanisms
- Providing training for national machineries and strengthening links with other national and international machineries
- Transforming the existence of various institutional mechanisms for women and policies for their advancement into opportunities to boost the development of gender equality
- Working towards changing mentalities by also addressing men and boys, the media and the educational system
- Considering women's diversity (race, ethnic group, age, social class, sexual orientation, etc.) in the formulation and implementation of gender equality policies
- Maintaining, deepening and intensifying links with women's social movements

- Perfecting mechanisms for enforcing established quota policies
- Seeking new national mechanisms for the integration of policies for the advancement of women
- Inviting ministries of finance to participate in the ninth session of the Regional Conference, to be held in Mexico.

Future research challenges

- Having the methodology and indicators needed to assess the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into public policies and its actual impact
- Carrying out stratified research on the political participation of women, involving different groups of women to reflect their diversity
- Identifying the real cultural and political obstacles to the strengthening of institutional mechanisms and the political participation of women
- Analysing the relationship between institutional mechanisms and women's movements
- Researching the issue of the construction and transmission of the image of women.

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
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**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

ARGENTINA

- Eduardo Leone, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Argentina en Brasil

BOLIVIA

- Jéssica Elio, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Bolivia en Brasil

BRASIL/BRAZIL

- Emb. Samuel Pinheiro Guimarães Neto, Ministro de Estado interino de Relações Exteriores
- Nilcéa Freire, Ministra, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres
- Matilde Ribeiro, Ministra, Secretaria Especial para la Promoción de las Políticas de Igualdad Racial
- Serys Shessarenko, Senadora
- Regina Bittencourt, Departamento Direitos Humanos e Temas Sociais, Ministerio das Relações Exteriores
- Zuleide Araújo Texeira, Subsecretaria de Planejamento, Subsecretaria de Planejamento de Políticas para as Mulheres
- Rosa María Marinho, Assessora Internacional, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres, Presidencia da República
- Emb. Thereza Maria Machado Quintella, Directora Fundación Alexandre de Gusmão (FUNAG), Ministerio de Relações Exteriores
- Maria Jose Oliveira Araújo, Diretora, Departamento Saúde da Mulher, Ministério da Saúde
- Rejane Xavier, Câmara dos Deputados
- Natalia Fontaura, Coordenadora, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres
- Simone Battestin, Coordenadora Comissão Nacional Jovens
- Suely Oliveira, Subsecretaria de Temática e Monitoramento de Programas, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres
- Mariene Fagundes, Assessoria Parlamentaria, Câmara de Deputados
- Paulina Luci Olivieri Aguiar, Assessora Secretaria Geral da Presidência da República
- Joyce Del Frari, Assessora, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres
- Rita de Cássia Lima Andréa, Coordenadora de Ensino, Secretaria Nacional de Saúde Pública, Ministerio de Justicia
- Ericka Barbosa, Assessora Pedagógica, Diretoria de Ensino Médio, Secretaria de Educação Média e Tecnológica

CHILE

- Cecilia Pérez, Ministra Directora, SERNAM
- María de la Luz Silva, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales, SERNAM

ECUADOR

- Rocío Rosero, Directora Ejecutiva Encargada, Consejo Nacional de Mujeres
- Lourdes Puma, Ministra, Embajada de Ecuador en Brasil

MÉXICO/MEXICO

- Patricia Espinoza, Presidenta, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres
- Patricia Wohlers Erchiga, Directora General Adjunta de Asuntos Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres
- Cecilia Soto, Embajadora de México en Brasil

PARAGUAY

- María José Argaña, Ministra Secretaria, Presidencia de la República
- Claudia García, Directora Sectorial, Secretaría de la Mujer, Presidencia de la República del Paraguay

PERÚ/PERU

- Ana María Romero-Lozada, Ministra, Ministerio de la Mujer y Desarrollo Social (MIMDES)

URUGUAY

- Silvia Izquierdo, Directora de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Humanitario del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Pamela Vivas, Consejero de la Embajada del Uruguay en Brasilia
- Cristina Grela, Comisión Nacional No Gubernamental de Seguimiento a Beijing
- Moriana Hernández, Asesora

VENEZUELA

- Doris Marlene Acevedo, Secretaria General, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer
- Sayed Duran, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de Venezuela en Brasil

**B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Población (FNUAP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Rogelio Fernández, Director UNFPA Oficina Regional de Apoyo Técnico, México
- Mirtha Rivarola, Consultora de Género, oficina del Paraguay

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund

- Niki Abrishamian, Oficial de Género

Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- Mónica Muñoz-Vargas, Directora Regional de Programa para el Cono Sur
- Ana Falú, Directora Regional de Programa para los países andinos
- Vera Soares, Coordinadora de Programas

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- Clarissa Adami, Asistente de Programas

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Lais Abramo, Asesora Regional de Género

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/International Development Bank (IDB)

- Ana Lucia Paiva Dezolt, Especialista Setorial

Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones (UIT)/International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

- Roxana Bustos, Programme Officer
- Vera Zanetti

**C. Organizaciones no gubernamentales
Non-governmental organizations**

- Nilza Iraci, Conselheiro, Conselho Nacional dos direitos da Mulher, representando a Articulação de Mulheres Negras Brasileiras
- Silvia Pimentel, Coordenadora Nacional do CLADEM
- Virginia Vargas, Centro Flora Tristán, Articulación Feminista Marcosur de Perú
- Angélica Roa Romero, Coordinación de Mujeres del Paraguay
- María Luz Garrido, Coordinadora, Articulación Feminista Marcosur de Uruguay
- Schuma Schumacher, Rede Desenvolvimento Humano, Articulación Feminista Marcosur do Rio de Janeiro
- Carla Batista, Brasil: SOS Corpo/Articulação de Mulheres Brasileiras
- Eva M. Cella Dal Chiavon, Secretaria Adjunta SEDES
- Sonia Romano, Coordenadora ensino SENASP
- Denise Pacheco, Assessora de Gabinete SEPPPIR-PR Séc. Especial de Pol. Promoção Igualdade Racial
- Graciela Rodríguez, IGTN Rede Internacional de Género e Comercio, Brasil
- Norma Sanchis, IGTN, Rede Internacional de Género e Comercio, Articulación Feminista Marcosur, Argentina

**D. Secretaría
Secretariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (ECLAC)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Sonia Montaña, Jefa, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Renato Baumann, Director, oficina ECLAC en Brasilia
- María Nieves Rico, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Carlos Mussi, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, oficina ECLAC en Brasilia
- Diane Alméras, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Luis F. Yañez, Asesor Legal de la ECLAC
- Virginia Guzmán, consultora, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Regina Festa, consultora, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo

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- ECLAC (2004), *Roads and shortcuts towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean*, draft, Santiago, Chile

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- Sonia Montañó, Jacqueline Pitanguy and Thereza Lobo, *Las políticas públicas de género: un modelo para armar. El caso de Brasil*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 45 (LC/L.1920-P)
- Daniel M. Giménez, *Género, previsión y ciudadanía social en América Latina*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 46 (LC/L.1937-P)
- Sylvia Chant, *New contributions to the analysis of poverty: methodological and conceptual challenges to understanding poverty from a gender perspective*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 47 (LC/L.1955-P)
- Virginia Guzmán, *Gobernabilidad democrática y género, una articulación posible*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 48 (LC/L.1962-P)

Virginia Guzmán and Graciela Corvalán, *La institucionalidad de género en un contexto de cambio de gobierno: el caso de Paraguay*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 49 (LC/L.2000-P)

- María José Araya, *Un acercamiento a las encuestas sobre el uso del tiempo con orientación de género*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 50 (LC/L.2022-P)
- Silke Staab, *En búsqueda de trabajo. Migración internacional de las mujeres latinoamericanas y caribeñas*, series Mujer y desarrollo, N° 51 (LC/L.2028-P)

Reports of meetings

- Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Havana, Cuba, 28 and 29 April 2003) (LC/L.1944(MDM.35/4))
- Report of the Meeting of Experts on Poverty and Gender Issues (Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 August 2003) (LC/L.2030)
- Report of the technical meeting on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the measurement of poverty (La Paz, Bolivia, 23 - 25 September 2003) (LC/L.2056)

- Report of the expert meeting on time-use surveys (Santiago, Chile, 11 and 12 December 2003) (LC/L.2058)
- Draft report of the preparatory meeting for Central America and Mexico towards the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 5 and 6 February 2004)
- Draft recommendations and conclusions of the Fourth Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women entitled "the Kingstown way forward" (Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 12 and 13 February 2004)
- Draft declaration of the Open-ended Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on Population and Development (Santiago, Chile, 10 and 11 March 2004)

Other documents

- Information leaflet on the ninth session of the Regional Conference
- ECLAC (2003), *Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002-2003* (offprint of Chapter III "Poverty and inequality from a gender perspective") (LC/G.2209-P/E), Santiago, Chile

