

**REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR
THE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN AND OTHER
REGIONAL CONSENSUSES**



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The Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, contained in this publication, was adopted by the member States during the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 25 to 29 September 1994 (LC/G.1850(CRM.6/7)). The strategic actions intended to complement the Programme were adopted during the twentieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference -in which all the member States were invited to participate-, held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 16 to 18 November 1994 (LC/L.872(MDM.20/3)).

The Santiago Consensus was adopted at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 November 1997 (see annex 1). The Lima Consensus was adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, from 8 to 10 February 2000 (see annex 2).

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INTRODUCTION

A little under 30 years ago, the first Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was adopted (Havana, 1977) as a regional expression of the work begun at the pioneering World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico City, 1975). This conference was a turning point in terms of social demands and government commitments to equality between men and women. The idea of a world platform from which to address the main problems associated with discrimination "moving on from protest to proposal", in the words of Latin American women was linked to the fight for human rights in the region. While many countries were enduring harsh military dictatorships and women were standing up as a symbol of the struggle for peace and equality, the first World Conference and the ECLAC regional conferences were opening up an opportunity for women to participate in all spheres of decision-making.

The current Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mar del Plata, 1994) is a landmark document, as it was adopted in a more democratic context and brings together experiences and successes achieved at the world level. This regional agreement is the reflection of a new geography of equality that was taking shape throughout the region as a women's social movement arose that was capable of acting without violence or stridency to slowly and gradually dismantle the structures of inequality. This was the roadmap that was traced out by the women's movement and that guided the region's governments until the movement joined forces with women throughout the world to formulate the Beijing Platform for Action. The validity of the Regional Programme of Action, initially adopted for the period 1995-2001, was extended in the Lima Consensus adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women (Lima, 2000), where participating countries committed to promote the effective implementation of both instruments.

Starting with their very first meetings, the region's Governments requested the support of ECLAC in building gender equity and turning the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean into a subsidiary body that would enable national authorities to meet in an intergovernmental framework. To a certain extent, the history of the Regional Conference is the history of the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the region, and the growing importance of the Conference attests to the empowerment of women.

As a subsidiary body of ECLAC, the Regional Conference is much more than a network of women activists, scholars and politicians; it is the response of the region's Governments to demands for equality, and its existence bears testimony to the Governments' willingness to undertake commitments that reinforce those assumed at the international level. This response has gradually transformed the Conference, where Governments are increasingly represented by women ministers and authorities responsible for gender policies who come to this forum to discuss the progress made in the sphere of policy-making. The Regional Programme of Action is a platform recognized by Governments, and the decisions adopted by the Regional Conference on Women form part of the decisions approved at the session of the Commission held every two years. This bears testimony to the fact that women and women's organizations have a tremendous capacity for persuasion, for hard work and for defending their interests, within and outside the State machinery. This has

enabled them to build a far-reaching institutional network in the region that is led by national women's offices. These offices in turn link their work with the different branches of government and with civil society organizations at the local, national and international levels. That is why, almost 30 years after the First World Conference, almost 10 years after the Fourth World Conference (Beijing, 1995) and a decade after the adoption of the current Regional Programme of Action, the Programme itself is being reissued along with the Santiago Consensus (1997) and the Lima Consensus (2000), documents that allow us to trace the development of regional thinking on gender equality. The ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico City in June 2004, will provide a new opportunity for Governments of the region to evaluate achievements and identify challenges for the years to come.

RESOLUTION ON THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-2001

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Endorsing the content of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (Havana, 1977); the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (Nairobi, 1985); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the resolutions on women adopted since 1985 by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly,

Taking into account resolution No. 1 on a new regional plan of action, adopted at the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Curaçao, 1991),*

Also taking into account the recommendations formulated at the meetings of the Presiding Officers elected at the fifth session of the Regional Conference,

Considering the new proposals of ECLAC contained in the resolutions adopted by its member countries for the 1990s, which express the need to take an integrated approach to development in order to achieve the objectives of changing production patterns with social equity, including gender equity,

On the understanding that the new Regional Programme of Action does not replace any of the instruments already in force, but rather seeks to complement them by reflecting the changes observed in the region and their impact on women and by setting forth a basic package of priority activities for Latin America and the Caribbean that can be carried out in the next five years,

Recommends the adoption of the new Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.**

* ECLAC, Report of the Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1684(CRM.5/6)), Santiago, Chile, 12 November 1991.

** The reservations entered by countries are set forth in the report of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1850(CRM.6/7)). In the present text, they are indicated in footnotes.

A. BACKGROUND

This document was elaborated on the basis of resolution No. 1 of the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Curaçao, 1991) (ECLAC, 1991), the guidelines put forward by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference (ECLAC, 1992a, 1992b, 1993a, 1993b, 1994a), the inputs of the Meetings of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System (ECLAC, 1992c, 1993c, 1993d), the recommendations of the meeting of experts, the comments of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference and the special contributions of the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

This Programme of Action is not intended to replace the instruments already in force,^{*} but rather to complement them by reflecting the changes observed in the region and their impact on women and by setting forth a basic package of priority activities for Latin America and the Caribbean that can be carried out in the next five years.

The backdrop for this Programme in the 1990s is one of economic progress in many countries of the region, accompanied by the persistence and intensification of serious problems of poverty and extreme poverty, aggravated by the debt crisis, structural adjustment programmes and social backwardness. For example, since the crisis of the 1980s, income distribution has been more inequitable in Latin America and the Caribbean than anywhere else in the world (ECLAC, 1993f) and the region has suffered a decline in economic and social investment which is affecting the quality of education, health and housing and of the basic services provided to large segments of the population (ECLAC, 1993f, 1990 and 1994b).

^{*} The main instruments in force are considered to be the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (Havana, 1977), the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (Nairobi, 1985), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the resolutions on the subject adopted since 1985 by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The persistence of poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean is linked to the enormous debt burden in many of its countries and territories, which has propelled them into formally or informally adopting structural adjustment policies with stringent conditionalities. This has impacted negatively on the region's capacity to invest adequately in the human development and institutional resources needed to confront the spread of poverty. For women, the combined effect of the debt burden and adjustment measures has also been to increase their productive and reproductive work, with deep implications for their economic, physical and social well-being.*

This situation has arisen simultaneously with the globalization of the world economy, the internationalization of communications and impressive technological advances. Despite the significant progress made in other areas, the pre-eminence of the market as the primary mechanism of resource allocation has been unable to correct deep-rooted economic, political, cultural and social inequalities.

In this context of globalization, interdependence and swift technological change, social issues can no longer be separated from economic growth and scientific and technological development, nor can they any longer be considered secondary concerns. Experience shows that accelerated economic growth does not necessarily lead to higher levels of well-being for the entire population, and that it can often accentuate social inequality and marginalization. It is therefore essential to devise new answers based on an integrated approach that addresses all aspects of development simultaneously: growth, equity, environmental sustainability, security, solidarity, participation, peace and respect for human rights.

In the political sphere, the 1990s have witnessed a renewed emphasis on democratic principles, the concept of citizenship and individual rights, accompanied by the emergence of new social actors, efforts at consensus-building and a growing questioning of political leaders.

Studies on the situation of women have confirmed that the structural inequality of society persists, as manifested by the lack of opportunities and of access to employment, basic services, power and decision-making at all hierarchical levels, and by the persistence of educational content which reinforces stereotyped sexual roles in textbooks and curricula —making it more difficult to exercise reproductive rights— and the weakness of mechanisms for promoting the advancement of women. This structural inequality is compounded by a deterioration of living conditions for the majority of women, of all ages and ethnic groups; the increase in migration; and the growth of the informal sector of the economy, in which more and more women are forced to work because of the crisis of the 1980s, a situation which is becoming worse in some of the subregions, especially in rural areas.

In some subregions, migration of women has increased along with the longer-standing migration of men in search of employment. Rural stagnation, family dislocation and homeless children are some of the consequences of the uprooting of

* The United States delegation entered a reservation with respect to this paragraph.

family members. Furthermore, the global recession has made it very difficult for new migrants to sustain a livelihood.

The above has prompted a calling into question as to whether greater participation of women in public life is due to structural changes. Such changes should lead to a real opening-up of new opportunities and thus to effective equality of women and men in society, and ensure just conditions for the promotion and participation of women, without discrimination on grounds of sex, race or ethnic group, and the appropriate social and economic changes.

In recent years, the new concept of gender equity has been developed as a means of approaching this problem; though not yet an object of consensus, it is a dynamic idea that is still evolving and that represents a basic contribution to the analysis of women's position in society. The gender inequalities in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres have arisen from the biological differences between the sexes in terms of reproduction.

Actions taken to improve the situation of women must scrupulously reflect the principle that biological differences should not lead to social inequalities.

The new proposals which the member countries of ECLAC are adopting for the 1990s assert the need for an integrated approach to development (ECLAC, 1990) that reconciles the differences between economic and social policies and addresses the various facets of social equity in such a way as to promote the emergence of democratic, productive societies in the region. This process requires complementarity between economic and social policies, educational reform, the strengthening of health services, investment in human resources, assurance of environmental sustainability, modernization of institutions and democratic consensus-building on equitable growth. In pursuing these objectives, countries should take the gender dimension into account and recognize the right of women to the full exercise of citizenship.

These proposals, in order to be effectively implemented, require a conceptualization of development centered on human beings and their needs, which cannot be dealt with through the logic of the market.

The building of full citizenship for women —i.e., development of the capacity for self-determination, the expression and representation of interests and demands, and the full exercise of individual and collective rights— is a still unfinished task in Latin America and the Caribbean, notwithstanding the progress which some countries have made in this area. Only if women are actively incorporated into public life can their societies benefit from the important contribution that women can make, not only to meet their own economic, social and cultural needs but also to contribute as full-fledged citizens. This incorporation should be carried out on the basis of forms of political representation that reflect a concept of development which does not ignore private life and considers gender differences.

The Programme of Action takes into account not only the regional context, but also the more specific framework of recent and forthcoming regional forums, so as to incorporate the topic into a wider agenda. Particular consideration has been given to the

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, the results of the International Conference on Population and Development, of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the World Conference on Human Rights and of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, the guidelines formulated on family issues and the recent debate that led to the adoption of the Guidelines for a Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on the World Summit for Social Development. The Programme of Action is based on the advances made in the States of the region with regard to equality of opportunity.

In accordance with this background, the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, revolves around eight priority areas: gender equity; economic and social development with a gender perspective; women's equitable share in the decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development; elimination of poverty; women's equitable participation in decision-making and in the exercise of power in public and private life; human rights, peace and violence; shared family responsibilities; recognition of cultural plurality in the region; and international support and cooperation.

The Regional Programme of Action puts forward a minimum set of measures on which consensus has been reached and which form a systemic whole; i.e., the strategies complement each other, and if they are to yield the expected results their implementation must be coordinated. The Programme is aimed at improving the status of all women in the region, regardless of their age, particularly rural women and those belonging to different population groups, such as indigenous, black, disabled and uprooted women.

B. RATIONALE OF THE PROGRAMME

In 1975, the countries represented at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City, adopted the first international instrument for systematically promoting women's integration into development: the World Plan of Action.

In view of the differences between the various regions, the States Members of the United Nations decided on that occasion that the above-mentioned instrument should be complemented with regional guidelines. In 1977, the member countries of ECLAC formulated and adopted at Havana the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development. They also decided to establish a permanent intergovernmental forum to address that issue, the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which would meet every three years to evaluate the progress made in implementing the Regional Plan of Action and to offer guidelines for future action.

Two more world conferences on women were held: one at Copenhagen in 1980, at which the participants elaborated the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, and one at Nairobi in 1985, at which the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women were adopted. The Strategies, which were based on the 1975 Plan and the 1980 Programme, became the primary world-wide instrument in this field, further enriching the 1977 Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean, the regional counterpart of the Strategies.

In 1991, the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean recommended, at its fifth session (Curaçao), that a regional programme of action for 1995-2001 should be elaborated to complement the aforementioned instruments, taking into account the changes observed in the region during the 1980s and the need for supplementary action to accelerate the processes under way.

In General Assembly resolution 45/129, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 and Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8A, the States Members of the United Nations recommended that the Fourth World Conference on Women should be held at Beijing in 1995 and that a Platform for Action should be elaborated for 1995-2001. This Regional Programme of Action for 1995-2001 therefore constitutes both an output of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mar del Plata, 1994) and an input to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and reflects the priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean member countries for the next five years.

C. CORE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

To expedite the achievement of gender equity and the complete integration of women into the development process, together with the full exercise of citizenship in the framework of sustainable development with social justice and democracy.

D. STRATEGIC AREAS

- Area I: Gender equity
- Area II: Economic and social development with a gender perspective: women's equitable share in the decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development
- Area III: Elimination of poverty among women
- Area IV: Women's equitable participation in decision-making and in the exercise of power in public and private life
- Area V: Human rights, peace and violence
- Area VI: Shared family responsibilities
- Area VII: Recognition of cultural plurality in the region
- Area VIII: International support and cooperation

AREA I: GENDER EQUITY

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Cultural, political, legal and economic contexts, as well as social, economic and educational practices that perpetuate inequality between women and men.
- b) Insufficient awareness among women and men of gender discrimination and of the need to stop it.
- b') Difficulties encountered by women and their organizations in joining forces on the basis of their needs and proposals.
- c) Insufficient political will to ensure the full participation of women in the economic and social development process.
- d) Lack of macroeconomic policies which take gender equity into account and are based on the effective participation of women and men in society.
- e) Limited capacity of public and private institutions to develop agendas that include gender concerns.
- f) Insufficient institutional strength of public entities responsible for women's issues.
- g) Precarious linkages among Governments, non-governmental women's organizations and international agencies with respect to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender policies.
- h) Insufficient linkage between women's organizations and the institutions of society and the State.
- i) The failure to recognize and value the unremunerated work which women carry out in agriculture, food production, child-rearing and household activities, and the failure to adequately support this work.
- j) Insufficient research on women's situation and participation in all areas throughout their lives, as well as insufficient data disaggregated by sex.
- k) Limited exchange of information, communication and collaboration with respect to women's issues among Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.
- l) Scarcity of statistics disaggregated by sex.

Progress

- a) Growing emphasis on citizenship and individual rights and greater respect for diversity in democratic societies, factors which are enabling women to participate as social agents.
- b) Women's heightened awareness of their rights, and strengthening of their organizations and bargaining power.
- c) An increase in the number of academic and research centres and universities that study and research gender relations.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE I

Incorporating the gender perspective into development planning at the highest levels and into social and economic policies and decisions to correct the inequality of relations between women and men caused by the persistence of discriminatory cultural contexts and economic and social practices.

Strategic objective I

To consider the specific needs of women and their equitable participation in the design, formulation, implementation and integrated evaluation of economic and social policies from a gender perspective, in the following areas:

- National, regional and international development agencies;
- Policies, programmes, plans and projects, in accordance with an integrated approach to development;
- Non-governmental organizations, the business sector and civil society.

Strategic action I.a	Ensuring that those responsible for formulating and implementing plans and policies are familiar with the gender perspective and trained in its application, so that women and men are given equal opportunities for access to and participation in the countries' development processes and in the equitable distribution of benefits.
Strategic action I.b	Conducting comparative analyses of women's and men's needs, capacities and participation in development processes to detect and correct gender inequities in the design of public policies; and considering, in the processes of analysis and evaluation, the impact of economic and social measures on women and men, using quantitative and qualitative indicators, as well as case studies at the local, national and regional levels.
Strategic action I.c	Conducting broad-based, permanent awareness campaigns on the gender perspective, making use of the local and international media and public education programmes run by Governments and the private sector, to make society sensitive to the need for more balanced, egalitarian participation by women and men in development processes.
Strategic action I.d	Establishing permanent training mechanisms and ensuring that all social groups have access to them, and introducing the gender perspective in all stages of training.
Strategic action I.e	Instituting action programmes to achieve more balanced and egalitarian participation by women and men in the development process, and ensuring that these programmes have the continuity they need in order to make a real cultural impact.

AREA II: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE: WOMEN 'S EQUITABLE SHARE IN THE DECISIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Political, administrative and financial deficiencies of public initiatives to guarantee women's full exercise of citizenship.
- b) Persistence of a welfare-oriented approach that limits structural reforms to promote gender equity.
- c) Lack of gender perspective in development planning.
- d) Insufficient establishment of legal instruments and insufficient implementation of those already established, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and insufficient political will among States to ensure their implementation.
- e) Lack of legal instruments ensuring equality of rights, and insufficient implementation of existing legal instruments which perpetuates the gap between *de facto* and *de jure* equality.
- f) Persistence of ethnic and cultural discrimination, which worsens the situation of the region's indigenous and black women, and continuation of a system based on an official language whose use discriminates against a large percentage of the population and limits women's opportunities to participate in the development of society.
- g) Insufficient participation of women in the debt and structural adjustment negotiations, which ultimately has a negative effect on their lives, those of their families and their society.
- h) Lack of equity in access to jobs, productive employment, training, credit and business activities, housing and land, and in wages, working conditions and social security systems, a situation which has been worsened, in the past decade, by changes in labour and social security legislation resulting from adjustment policies.
- i) Failure of public policies to recognize the economic contributions made by urban and rural women through non-wage-earning productive activities.

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- j) Growth of unemployment and underemployment, especially among women, which tends to depress wages and weaken trade unions.
 - k) Rural women's limited access to the means of production.
 - l) Insufficient statistical data showing the real proportion of women in the economically active population (EAP).
 - m) Insufficient opportunities for large sectors of the female population to enter and stay in the education system; maintenance of school curricula and teaching practices that limit women's opportunities to participate in society and reinforce the lack of equity between women and men, as well as women's subordination, instead of promoting their confidence and self-esteem.
 - n) Insufficiency of education reforms at all levels, in terms of leading to real changes in educational plans and programmes, teacher training and the updating of curricula in university and non-university higher education.
 - o) Insufficient coverage of health care services for women, failure to adapt these services to women's needs and cultural orientation, and lack of information programmes to alert women to health risks, a situation aggravated by the growing privatization of such services.
 - p) Lack of clear proposals on sustainable development that provide for the equitable sharing of its benefits between women and men, and lack of opportunities for women to participate in identifying problems and formulating and implementing policies and programmes related to environmental concerns, which would make their contributions to the solution of those problems more efficient and effective.
 - q) Lack of the necessary political will to carry out specific actions to improve resources management so as to achieve sustainable development.
 - r) Characterization of women solely as domestic administrators of the environmental crisis.

Progress

- a) Inclusion of sectoral actions directed towards women in development plans and strategies; establishment of government offices for women in nearly all countries; and legal recognition of women's citizenship and individual rights.
- b) Improvement of women's legal status; ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; as well as the ratification of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women; and launching of a process of amending national legislation in keeping with such instruments.

- c) The larger role which women's organizations in civil society are playing in formulating policies from the gender perspective.
- d) Growth of the proportion of women in the economically active population.
- e) Greater number of women participating at all levels of education and continuing their education; and significant increases in the proportion of women professionals.
- f) Improvement of teacher training to promote women's integration into formal and non-formal education.
- g) Growing recognition of the importance of comprehensive health care and greater concern with respect to the health conditions to which women are exposed in the workplace.
- h) Increased recognition of the importance of environmental protection, and of the adoption of Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE II

Ensuring that the decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development are distributed equitably between women and men.

Strategic objective II.1

To create or strengthen the political, administrative, legislative and financial capacity of government institutions that formulate, coordinate and evaluate public policies aimed at improving the status of women and promoting gender equity, and to ensure that such entities become a permanent part of the highest level of the State apparatus.

Strategic action II.1.a

Setting up, in countries where they do not exist, or consolidating government institutions for women; ensuring their definitive incorporation into the highest level of the State structure, and seeing that they are provided with the necessary financial, technical and material resources on an ongoing basis.

Strategic action II.1.b Providing those responsible for the design, implementation and coordination of public policies with systematic training in the elaboration and analysis of gender variables and indicators, to ensure that the gender perspective is applied to the processes of diagnosis, monitoring, systematization and evaluation and to uphold high standards of technical preparation.

Strategic action II.1.c Promoting the participation of government institutions for women in the design, discussion, formulation and amendment of draft laws, to ensure that women's interests and needs are taken into account.

Strategic action II.1.d Promoting the establishment of a system for monitoring and evaluating compliance with agreements, conventions, programmes and policies to benefit women, with the participation of non-governmental organizations and women's movements.

Strategic objective II.2

To incorporate into national legislation principles and norms established at the international level so as to ensure the equitable participation of women in all aspects of society and to set up the necessary mechanisms, institutions and services for their effective implementation.

Strategic action II.2.a Making national legislation consistent with international and regional norms that promote the advancement of women, especially in the areas of education, employment, health, human rights, political participation and the eradication of violence, and adopting and implementing policies, programmes and measures to guarantee the effective implementation of legal norms designed to improve the situation of women; proposing the legal provisions needed to achieve full gender equity, and promoting their adoption; and supplementing and amending secondary legislation, where necessary, to make it consistent with the legal provisions adopted at the constitutional level.

Strategic action II.2.b Conducting, through the mass media, systematic campaigns, educational programmes and legal aid seminars to disseminate detailed information on women's rights and on judicial and administrative procedures for the effective exercise thereof, as

well as on the work of government and non-governmental organizations that support women, to increase women's legal literacy, and ensuring that these campaigns and programmes primarily target vulnerable groups of women that suffer from discrimination.

**Strategic action
II.2.c**

Raising the awareness of legislators and public officials of the need to carry out legal reforms to achieve gender equity.

**Strategic action
II.2.d**

Preparing and promoting the adoption of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that provides, among other mechanisms, for the right of individuals to submit petitions, as recommended in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights.

**Strategic action
II.2.e**

Urging the States of the region to sign, ratify and implement, before the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, adopted by the Organization of American States.*

Strategic objective II.3

To ensure that women have equitable access to productive work, to employment, to productive resources and to new technologies, within the framework of policies to improve their social and economic situation, and to ensure equality of opportunity and treatment with respect to working conditions and pay, as well as possibilities for job-related improvement and development and for women's access to executive positions.

**Strategic action
II.3.a**

Establishing follow-up and evaluation procedures to monitor compliance with the agreements adopted by the countries of the region to ensure that all women have access to employment on the same terms as men, guaranteeing them career advancement opportunities, job stability and equal pay for work of equal value.

* The delegation of Mexico entered a reservation on this strategic action.

Strategic action II.3.b	Promoting legislation that guarantees equal employment opportunities for women and men and includes measures against gender discrimination.
Strategic action II.3.c	Promoting the design and implementation of human resources training policies geared towards achieving social and gender equity by radically redirecting the training and vocational education offered to all women, especially young women, towards non-traditional fields, followed up with activities in the areas of guidance, formal education and industry and the use of advanced technologies, in order to meet the requirements of labour markets and demands for human resources in the public and private sectors, and especially within enterprises.
Strategic action II.3.d	Designing strategies that take women's socio-economic and cultural differences into account, and creating the necessary policy tools to ensure that women have the same access as men to all productive resources (land, capital and labour) and to technological resources and special credit lines.
Strategic action II.3.e	Improving women's working conditions by eliminating wage discrimination, ensuring full respect for women's labour rights and guaranteeing their access to social security systems, and enacting legislation geared towards setting up support services for working women and men, such as child care and other socio-domestic services, and establishing mechanisms for the effective implementation of such provisions.
Strategic action II.3.f	Promoting, through affirmative action, women's egalitarian participation in the decision-making processes of workers' organizations, taking diversity into account and encouraging the application of the gender approach in those organizations; carrying out business and trade union coordination activities to improve women's integration in the labour market and enhance their capacity to negotiate with the public sector, workers' organizations and private employers.
Strategic action II.3.g	Eliminating employers' discriminatory practices with respect to women, such as requiring proof of use of contraceptives and reporting of pregnancy.
Strategic action II.3.h	Promoting women's access to the highest levels of administration and management in public and private industry, commerce and services.
Strategic action II.3.i	Increasing women's opportunities for education and training in administration, management and the other skills they need in order to participate actively at all levels of the public and private sectors.

Strategic action II.3.j	Improving the working conditions of women who perform unwaged labour and women who work in the informal sector; compiling information on the value of their work to ensure that commensurable benefits accrue to them under social security and retirement systems.
Strategic action II.3.k	Creating mechanisms for quantifying and determining the value of the economic contribution of women's unwaged work in the home and in agriculture, food production, reproduction and community work; designing gender indicators to recognize the value of these contributions to GDP; and defining as workers, in the System of National Accounts, persons who perform unwaged labour.
Strategic action II.3.l	Ensuring that women's demands are taken into account in the process of negotiating integration agreements in the region, and systematizing information on those demands.
Strategic action II.3.m	Promoting research that can be used as a basis for comparative analysis of the employment and work situation of women and men in urban and rural areas, disaggregating the data collected by sex, class, ethnic origin and region; evaluating the impact of international trade liberalization on employment and migration.
Strategic action II.3.n	Conducting research, creating economic opportunities and designing technologies which address the specific needs of women and help them to meet some of the challenges posed by their multiple productive and reproductive roles.**
Strategic action II.3.o	Ensuring that statistical data from any source, especially censuses, national surveys and permanent statistical systems, is disaggregated by sex and ethnic origin, with particular attention to statistics on labour, wages and the production system in general, in both the public and private sectors; revising techniques and methodologies for compiling data; and guaranteeing civil society's access to statistics and their dissemination at the national level.
Strategic action II.3.p	Promoting and strengthening alternative financing systems and models, including the involvement of non-governmental organizations in this process.

* The delegation of France entered a reservation on this strategic action.

** The delegations of Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador and Venezuela entered reservations on this strategic action. The delegation of Guatemala said that it understood "productive and reproductive roles" in terms of the scientific approach of gender theory.

Strategic objective II.4

To ensure that the population in general, and especially girls and women, have access to formal and informal education that prepares them for the full exercise of their rights and of full citizenship, equitable participation in decision-making and the egalitarian sharing of family and household responsibilities, and to ensure that girls remain in the educational system.

Strategic action II.4.a	Strengthening the full exercise of citizenship by promoting reforms in formal and non-formal education, reorienting research and adapting school curricula.
Strategic action II.4.b	Promoting increases in budgetary allocations for education, recognizing them as a form of productive public investment.
Strategic action II.4.c	Ensuring that the countries of the region comply with the agreements adopted on promoting the education of women and girls and preventing discrimination for reasons of gender, race or ethnic group, guaranteeing respect for cultural identities, and measuring this compliance through follow-up and evaluation bodies specializing in the gender perspective.
Strategic action II.4.d	Eliminating sexism and other forms of discrimination from educational processes and the messages conveyed by education and the mass media, to promote more equitable relations between women and men and to eliminate the stereotypes that are reproduced and inculcated through those channels.
Strategic action II.4.e	Conducting research and taking actions to eradicate female illiteracy, reduce women's drop-out and repetition rates and encourage women, especially rural and indigenous women, to remain in the educational system.
Strategic action II.4.f	Reducing disparities in access to tertiary education, where they exist, and ensuring that training opportunities are available to women so that they can enter and stay in universities and that women have equitable access to career development scholarships and fellowships abroad and at home.
Strategic action II.4.g	Promoting women's access to non-traditional scientific and technical careers —following the conduct of feasibility studies— by disseminating, as widely as possible, information on all

available options for professional training and on the demands and conditions of the job market, adapting school curricula and instituting affirmative-action programmes for that purpose.

**Strategic action
II.4.h**

Establishing and promoting communication policies and strategies to combat the dissemination of stereotyped images of women and men in the media, and encouraging messages that reflect the diversity of women's roles, living conditions and viewpoints; designing gender awareness and training programmes for teachers in the educational system and for media personnel to induce them to adopt attitudes characterized by gender equity.

**Strategic action
II.4.i**

Conducting multidisciplinary research on the different roles played by women throughout history, disseminating the findings thereof and incorporating them into school textbooks at all levels of education.

**Strategic action
II.4.j**

Ensuring the creation of a policy environment which facilitates the access of drop-outs and teenage mothers to continued education.

**Strategic action
II.4.k**

Promoting the access of women of all ages to physical education and sports, to enhance their self-esteem and autonomy by encouraging them to value their bodies and their leisure time.

**Strategic action
II.4.l**

Incorporating the issues of environment and sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and gender equity into programmes of study and improving their content, to promote greater responsibility and awareness in those areas.*

**Strategic action
II.4.m**

Developing educational actions that take advantage of the talents and skills inherent in women's cultural identities, and especially those of disabled women.

**Strategic action
II.4.n**

Fostering collaboration between organizations of the women's movement and government institutions for women in the formulation of proposals on education policies.

* The delegations of Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action.

Strategic objective II.5

To provide preventive and comprehensive health care for women, respecting their ethnic and cultural identity, and to ensure high quality care and have equitable access to it at all stages of their lives, taking into consideration the differential impact of gender on the processes of health and disease.

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| Strategic action
II.5.a | Promoting the establishment of decentralized programmes of integral, prevention-oriented health care, especially in rural areas, ensuring that women participate equitably in their design and execution and that steps are taken to provide quality services which are affordable, accessible and culturally acceptable. |
| Strategic action
II.5.b | Maximizing the use of local health care systems by promoting the incorporation of gender criteria, community participation and self-care, especially in preventive health care programmes. |
| Strategic action
II.5.c | Promoting the inclusion, in public health policies, of specific programmes for women and men to prevent and deal with teenage pregnancy, especially in early adolescence, in a context of integral health care that includes actions such as the provision of non-sexist sex education. |
| Strategic action
II.5.d | Allocating human, material and financial resources for integral health care for women throughout their lives; improving the health and nutritional status of pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers, <i>inter alia</i> by providing breast-feeding education and support services which can contribute to birth spacing, better maternal and child health and higher child survival rates. |
| Strategic action
II.5.e | Promoting research to identify women's health care needs, especially in the areas of mental health; drug use; sexual and reproductive health; breast-feeding; teenage pregnancy; fertility by place of residence, educational level and income bracket; all causes of maternal mortality; specific occupational and sexually transmitted diseases, and women's vulnerability to them and to AIDS; the health of girls and older women; and all the health risk factors linked to the social construct of gender and to socio-economic conditions; and promoting actions to meet such needs.* |

* The delegations of Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action.

Strategic action II.5.f	Considering health indicators for women as indicators of a country's development.
Strategic action II.5.g	Promoting measures to improve information on women's health and record-keeping in that regard, by incorporating gender analysis into statistical information systems.
Strategic action II.5.h	Providing better family planning services and establishing systems for offering information and compassionate counselling to all women, including those with unwanted pregnancies, while recognizing the importance of abortion as a public health problem and the principle that abortion should in no case be considered a method of family planning. The implementation of this action should conform to the provisions of the relevant paragraphs of chapter 7, on reproductive rights, of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo, Egypt.*
Strategic action II.5.i	Encouraging the adoption of measures to protect and promote women's reproductive rights, to guarantee democratic discussion of those rights and to provide the necessary services in conformity with the paragraphs on reproductive rights contained in chapter 7 of the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo, Egypt.**
Strategic action II.5.j	Respecting the right of couples and of women to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, and strengthening women's capacity to exercise this basic right by giving both women and men access to the information, education and means they need to act on those decisions; carrying out educational programmes and activities to encourage men to participate more equitably and responsibly in family planning.
Strategic action II.5.k	Designing compulsory sex education programmes, at the level of school boards, from the first year of school.***
Strategic action II.5.l	Fostering collaboration between organizations of the women's movement and government institutions for women in the formulation of proposals on health care policies.

* The delegations of Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action.

** The delegations of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action. The delegation of Argentina said that it accepted the concept of reproductive rights as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

*** The delegations of Argentina and United States entered a reservation on this strategic action.

Strategic objective II.6**To achieve equitable participation of women in the design and management of environmental policies.**

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| Strategic action
II.6.a | Elaborating policies, laws, regulations and other instruments, in all relevant areas and at all levels, to ensure the protection of the environment and natural resources, making use of the results of specialized meetings, such as Agenda 21 adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; urging Governments to ensure the equitable integration and participation of women and men in the planning, design, formulation and implementation of environment policies and programmes and in the implementation of specific actions in that field. |
| Strategic action
II.6.b | Requesting Governments to set up programmes to raise the awareness of the public at large about the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure the survival of future generations, and the need to endeavour to improve and conserve the environment, especially in regions where ecological costs are particularly onerous for the female population. |
| Strategic action
II.6.c | Providing and appropriately channelling the financial resources needed to strengthen women's participation in environmental management; enlisting the support of the international community, especially international technical and financial cooperation agencies, to encourage them to allocate more financial resources for the implementation of specific projects related to the sound use and protection of natural resources. |
| Strategic action
II.6.d | Creating the necessary material, technical and training conditions to enable women and men to contribute to environmental protection in both urban and rural areas, taking their needs and viewpoints into account. |
| Strategic action
II.6.e | Developing environmental policies and education programmes that address the impacts of environmental degradation on women and men and management initiatives in this field. |
| Strategic action
II.6.f | Promoting, through formal and non-formal education programmes, at various educational levels, in the communications media and in the process of development policy planning, the |

concept that sustainable development is indissociable from the elimination of gender inequalities.

**Strategic action
II.6.g**

Introducing, in formal educational curricula, instruction modules on the relationship between the environment and survival and on environmental preservation.

**Strategic action
II.6.h**

Promoting research by government and non-governmental institutions on the relationship between women and the environment to determine how the two issues interact, especially with regard to natural resources, in both urban and rural areas, to support the formulation of appropriate policies.

**Strategic action
II.6.i**

Addressing the structural issues that inhibit women's use of sustainable agricultural and natural resource management techniques, such as market imperfections; lack of land tenure; limited access to appropriate technologies, training and credit; and low levels of participation in community resource management groups.

**Strategic action
II.6.j**

Expanding economic opportunities for women in sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection to encourage these practices.

**Strategic action
II.6.k**

Encouraging the use of appropriate production technologies, giving priority to research, promoting endogenous technologies and suitably adapting imported technologies, so as to achieve harmonious development of the community while preserving the environment.

AREA III: ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AMONG WOMEN

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Increase in extreme poverty, which affects women proportionally more than men; widening of income disparities; and deterioration of the quality of life.
- b) Gradual decline in government spending on social programmes, specifically those aimed at promoting gender equity.
- c) Increasing shift from governments towards the private sector and civil society of responsibilities for providing social services.
- d) Increase in unemployment, poverty and inequality as a result of the external debt crisis and the implementation of adjustment and restructuring policies.
- e) Increase in the number of households headed by women, most of whom work in the informal sector without legal or social protection.
- f) Increasing female migration caused by poverty, which then leads to the intergenerational reproduction of poverty.
- g) Lack of specific studies on how women are affected by poverty, with data disaggregated by sex.
- h) Insufficient statistical data and research on how poverty affects women and men differently.

Progress

- a) Growing interest in the implementation of programmes and projects targeted at poor women, especially uprooted women.
- b) Increase in the participation of communities and social and non-governmental organizations, especially women's groups, in dealing with the problems of the poor.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE III

Reviewing and modifying, where appropriate, macroeconomic policies and adjustment programmes in the region to correct and overcome their negative effects, such as an increase in unemployment, poverty and violence, which have been particularly detrimental to women.*

Creating the conditions for reducing and overcoming poverty, in the framework of a sustainable development process and taking into account each country's level of development and socio-cultural characteristics.

Strategic objective III.1

To review, modify and integrate macroeconomic and social policies, especially in those countries where debt servicing and structural adjustment policies exist, in order to promote growth and social equity, through, among other actions, policies which allocate resources to increase employment opportunities and wages for women, giving special attention to the needs of groups of poor women and combating marginalization, taking into account people's ethnic and socio-cultural characteristics.

Strategic action III.1.a

Formulating and implementing development policies aimed at substantially improving the living conditions of the poor, ensuring that women, especially young women, participate equitably in designing and implementing them, and that enough resources are allocated to meet the objectives of those policies; evaluating the impact of economic and social policies on the groups of women they affect.

Strategic action III.1.b

Promoting mechanisms for the systematic involvement of national machinery on women's affairs in designing and monitoring economic and social policies with an integrated approach, to guarantee social equity and equality.

* The United States delegation entered a reservation with respect to this paragraph.

Strategic action III.1.c	Promoting the consideration, in the allocation of investments, of the social, economic and cultural asymmetries or differences between different areas or communities, giving special attention to groups living in extreme poverty.
Strategic action III.1.d	Raising the level of employment and personal development of women and men who are marginalized and poor by providing equal opportunities for access to free technical and vocational training and to scholarships. Encouraging women's entry into training and economic activities that are directly linked to current demands and that can yield substantially higher wages or profit levels.
Strategic action III.1.e	Promoting employment and vocational programmes that provide support to women's cooperatives, informal-sector women entrepreneurs, associations of female producers, self-managed enterprises and other forms of productive organization. Expediting the enactment of legislation to provide legal protection for those programmes, so that women in the formal and informal sectors, especially those who are heads of household, can improve their linkages with the market and increase their productivity and income levels.
Strategic action III.1.f	Improving the quality of life of women, especially those in the poorest groups, by establishing credit systems for small businesses run by women and eliminating obstacles to women's access to all productive resources, especially training, technical assistance and basic social services.
Strategic action III.1.g	Ensuring that women in small and medium-sized businesses receive training on technical-administrative issues.
Strategic action III.1.h	Designing labour capacity-oriented programmes for women heads of household and facilitating their access to adequately paid work or their efforts to establish income-generating activities by themselves.
Strategic action III.1.i	Redoubling efforts to generalize the use of statistics disaggregated by sex and to ensure that they include gender and ethnic indicators, and promoting the incorporation of analyses differentiated by sex into statistical systems, thereby facilitating the conduct of more precise studies of the needs of women and men; and ensuring the provision of the necessary technical and financial resources for that purpose.

Strategic objective III.2

To create the necessary conditions for ensuring that adequate coverage and quality of education are provided to poor women, taking into account their ethnic, national and age characteristics, as well as the specific problems of disabled, uprooted, rural and migrant women.

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| Strategic action
III.2.a | Ensuring that women and men, girls and boys, especially those in vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination, receive an education that incorporates the gender approach and seeks to strengthen the exercise of citizenship in conditions of equity, <i>inter alia</i> by teaching them about their human and civil rights and duties. |
| Strategic action
III.2.b | Establishing decentralized entities to monitor, supervise and evaluate the educational achievements of women and men, especially in terms of variables such as whether they live in urban or rural areas or belong to vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination, and ensuring that women can enter all fields of education and training. |
| Strategic action
III.2.c | Supporting women's efforts and advancement through a wide-ranging public education process conducted by the government and private sectors, with the help of the mass media, recognizing their autonomy and decision-making capacity and strengthening organizations of all types, especially grass-roots organizations, that help women to meet their objectives. |
| Strategic action
III.2.d | Creating quality informal educational opportunities for women and girls. |
| Strategic action
III.2.e | Carrying out literacy programmes and projects to eradicate illiteracy, especially among women in vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination, ensuring respect for cultural differences. |
| Strategic action
III.2.f | Supporting the cause of indigenous peoples and women so that they can define their own development goals and preserve their cultural identity, without prejudice to their civil rights or to the unity of the State, and allocating the necessary financial and material resources for that purpose. |

**Strategic action
III.2.g** Designing educational programmes that specifically address the special needs of street children, especially girls, to enable such children to stay in school.

Strategic objective III.3

To ensure access to comprehensive, high-quality preventive health care services to poor women, taking into account their cultural, linguistic and age characteristics.

**Strategic action
III.3.a** Establishing and equipping local centres that provide comprehensive health care and give priority to the major health risks to women in vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination, with emphasis on preventive services and with the participation of women.

**Strategic action
III.3.b** Allocating resources to provide comprehensive health care to women throughout their lives, especially during pregnancy, puerperium and breast-feeding, and to ensure health care for working women.

**Strategic action
III.3.c** Providing appropriate health information, education and services to young women, especially pregnant teenagers.

Strategic objective III.4

To give women living in poverty, especially heads of household, access to decent housing and adequate infrastructure services to sustain a living.

**Strategic action
III.4.a** Designing and implementing housing programmes especially tailored for women in vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination —rural and urban women who are in the subsistence economy or who are heads of household, displaced, refugees or disabled— and providing credit on easy terms and technical assistance to ensure their access to basic infrastructure.

- Strategic action III.4.b** Promoting women's and men's involvement in the design, construction and improvement of their dwellings so that their needs and sociocultural differences are taken into account, and ensuring greater decentralization of housing policies to facilitate this process at the local level, making use of local resources.
- Strategic action III.4.c** Eliminating legal barriers that prevent women from obtaining housing in their own names or claiming the status of heads of household, and designing housing policies that give priority, in terms of access to credit for urban and rural housing, to single mothers who are heads of household.
- Strategic action III.4.d** Removing legal barriers that deny women the right to gain, hold and transfer title to their homes and properties.
- Strategic action III.4.e** Establishing building codes, enforceable at the community level, to guarantee access of the disabled to physical and social infrastructural services.

Strategic objective III.5

To stem migration from the countryside to the cities by means of investment in rural development and other specific measures.

- Strategic action III.5.a** Improving the situation of rural women by investing in rural development, designing employment policies and programmes and taking specific measures (provision of infrastructure, technology and services) to help reduce poverty in that sector and the rate of rural-to-urban migration, as well as the consequent break-up of families.

Strategic objective III.6

To promote, at all levels of government, of the State and of civil society, actions to make rural women's contribution to development and their productive role in society visible.

Strategic action III.6.a	Revising legislation, policies, plans, programmes and projects to facilitate women's access to land, production facilities and natural resources.
Strategic action III.6.b	Designing programmes to support the activities carried out by rural women, including food production, employment in agro-industry and product marketing.
Strategic action III.6.c	Making public and private agricultural organizations and the general population aware of the rights of rural women, and providing training on the subject.
Strategic action III.6.d	Improving the living conditions of rural women by providing basic infrastructure and services and promoting programmes designed to alleviate their burden of housework.
Strategic action III.6.e	Developing the capacities of rural women through the promotion of organization and training, to strengthen them as social agents.
Strategic action III.6.f	Training women already in the rural productive sector to become effectively involved as exporters individually and in groups in their own right.
Strategic action III.6.g	Providing training to ensure that the methodologies and timing of technology transfer activities are suitable for rural women.
Strategic action III.6.h	Disaggregating agricultural production data by sex and socio-economic situation, to heighten the visibility of rural women's economic contribution to agricultural production.

AREA IV: WOMEN'S EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND IN THE EXERCISE OF POWER IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Existence of an institutional, social and cultural structure that hinders women's access to power at all levels.
- b) Persistence of cultural patterns and stereotypes that reserve public power for men and assign exclusively to women domestic chores and functions.
- c) Lack of legal instruments and the restrictive nature of the institutions in which power is vested.
- d) Continued existence, in social and political institutions, of machinery that is explicitly or implicitly discriminatory.

Progress

- a) Greater participation of women in power structures, although to different degrees in different countries.
- b) Evidence of a growing concern about the situation of women in national, State, regional and international agendas.
- c) Strengthened collaboration between the State and women's organizations in democratic systems.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE IV

Ensuring that women have equitable access to power structures and decision-making processes by creating mechanisms and actions that allow for their effective participation in the development of a full-fledged democracy.

Strategic objective IV.1

To promote and ensure the equitable participation of women in all public and private power structures by taking affirmative steps to secure and expand their access to the exercise of power, as an integral element of citizenship, at the legislative, judicial, executive, supervisory and planning levels.

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| Strategic action
IV.1.a | Strongly encouraging all newly elected Governments to appoint, on equal terms, more women to decision-making positions in their cabinets and administrations, especially in the field of economics, in the various branches of government. |
| Strategic action
IV.1.b | Encouraging the establishment of women's rights commissions, consisting of both women and men, in the legislative branch of government, and promoting their coordination with government institutions for women. |
| Strategic action
IV.1.c | Ensuring women's equitable participation in all high-level commissions and entities, <i>inter alia</i> as official foreign representatives and as diplomats. |
| Strategic action
IV.1.d | Demanding that training in the gender perspective be made compulsory at all levels of State coordination. |
| Strategic action
IV.1.e | Using training modules that incorporate the gender perspective to train women, including indigenous women, in leadership and empowerment, to strengthen their possibilities of performing leadership functions in the upper echelons of the State structure and in all institutions of society, and to raise awareness of the need for women to participate equitably in decision-making processes. |
| Strategic action
IV.1.f | Urging political parties to guarantee equality of opportunity for women in terms of access to party leadership positions and to the process of selecting candidates for elective office, including the adoption of specific affirmative-action measures such as reforms of electoral codes and the establishment of progressive minimum quotas until equitable participation is assured, and carrying out programmes of information and guidance —for both women and men— on the importance of women's participation in political parties. |

Strategic action IV.1.g	Encouraging and supporting, through the mass media, the effective participation of women and young women, especially new voters, in decision-making processes and in the exercise of their political rights and responsibilities, including that of standing for elective or appointive office, as part of their citizenship.
Strategic action IV.1.h	Encouraging the communications media to include women, on an equitable basis, in positions where decisions are taken on administrative issues, programming and the content of the messages conveyed.
Strategic action IV.1.i	Establishing mechanisms and procedures to guarantee women's equal opportunity for advancement in public, political and union careers, and fostering gender equity in terms of promotions, professional development and other areas.
Strategic action IV.1.j	Promoting operational changes in public and private organizations to encourage greater participation by women in their activities and meetings.
Strategic action IV.1.k	Promoting the creation of conditions and opportunities for women to be elected to public office.
Strategic action IV.1.l	Stimulating, in all areas of society, both public and private, processes of change geared towards consolidating equitable and democratic relationships between women and men.*

Strategic objective IV.2

To promote positive measures to create the necessary conditions for women's equitable participation and political representation in businesses, trade unions, political parties and other formal and informal areas of civil society, and in all decision-making processes and in the area of development planning.

Strategic action IV.2.a	Promoting changes in the inequitable and sexist conceptions underlying the behaviours of women and men.
Strategic action IV.2.b	Adopting affirmative-action measures to help increase women's participation in decision-making processes.

* The delegations of Dominican Republic and Honduras entered a reservation on this strategic action.

Strategic action IV.2.c	Promoting the empowerment of women in all aspects of private and public life so that they can exercise their rights, express their needs and interests and gain greater autonomy and personal, economic and social power, in their capacity as citizens.
Strategic action IV.2.d	Funding and conducting studies to identify the factors that obstruct or hinder women's full participation in decision-making processes; establishing mechanisms to help increase their participation in those processes; and disseminating all information gleaned from these studies.
Strategic action IV.2.e	Raising public awareness of the necessity and desirability of women's participation in decision-making processes and power structures.
Strategic action IV.2.f	Carrying out awareness campaigns to promote women's full participation in all public power structures, recognizing the need to change the distribution of responsibilities and work in the private sphere.
Strategic action IV.2.g	Designing, implementing and strengthening formal and informal training programmes on management, organization, negotiation, administration and leadership for women's organizations and women in general.
Strategic action IV.2.h	Promoting recognition of and respect for the autonomy of women's movements and non-governmental organizations, and raising the awareness of other organizations of civil society so that they incorporate the gender approach and use equitable procedures for distributing posts; and systematizing processes of consultation with non-governmental organizations and women's organizations in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies that support women.
Strategic action IV.2.i	Promoting collaboration between government agencies and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the need to eliminate existing inequalities, and establishing joint monitoring procedures to ensure the effective implementation of policies designed to correct that inequality.
Strategic action IV.2.j	Supporting the funding and strengthening of women's organizations, systematizing and disseminating the knowledge they generate and promoting their linkage with other social entities.

AREA V: HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND VIOLENCE

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Insufficiency of measures taken to guarantee women's full exercise of human rights and citizenship.
- b) Various types of violence of structural origin directed against women and lack of recognition that it is a public problem.
- c) Failure to comply with international conventions aimed at eliminating inequality between women and men and discrimination against women.
- d) Persistence of gender-based discriminatory legislation which reinforces women's unequal status in society and the family.
- e) Obsolete nature of penal law.
- f) Limited recognition of women's rights as human rights.
- g) Shortcomings in the administration of justice and difficult access for women to judicial proceedings.
- h) Insufficient support services for female victims of violence.
- i) Persistence of conditions permitting impunity for those who commit crimes against women.
- j) Inadequacy of systems of rehabilitating perpetrators of acts of violence against women through training in non-violent ways of settling disputes.

Progress

- a) Significant progress in seeking to settle disputes through political negotiations.
- b) Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- c) Adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and of other human rights instruments.
- d) Recognition of the topic of violence against women as an issue for public debate.
- e) Emergence of initiatives to provide support to female victims of violence.

- f) Adoption of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.
- g) Promotion of Culture of Peace Programmes, which have received international, regional and national support, and contributed to the repair of the social fabric and the achievement of reconciliation, with a leading role for women.
- h) International recognition of women's reproductive rights.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE V

Ensuring the universal, inalienable, indivisible and integral nature of all the human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural) of women, as well as consistent respect for and protection of these rights in a healthful environment at all times and in all places.

Strategic objective V.1

To consolidate full respect for the human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural) of women in the region, within a context where priority is given to the elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination and to the rights of poor and uprooted women, taking ethnic and racial differences into account.

Strategic action V.1.a

Establishing and strengthening mechanisms for ensuring compliance with international conventions and all programme areas of regional and national plans of action, in order to close the gap between *de jure* and *de facto* equality to help ensure that women, particularly those in situations of greater vulnerability, participate fully in all areas of society, and urging States which have not ratified the relevant conventions to do so without reservations.

* The Ecuadorian delegation entered a reservation with respect to this subparagraph.

Strategic action V.1.b	Establishing and/or updating legal and administrative mechanisms for the protection of women's human rights to ensure that they effectively safeguard the full exercise of those rights.
Strategic action V.1.c	Eliminating or amending all national legislative provisions whose application promotes or permits discrimination against women in civil, criminal, family, procedural, labour, commercial and administrative law, and in the areas of education and health.
Strategic action V.1.d	Bringing national legislation into line with international norms, especially with regard to women's human rights, and urging Governments to draw up and promulgate new national laws and penal, civil, administrative and procedural regulations to prevent, punish and eradicate all forms and manifestations of violence against women.
Strategic action V.1.e	Ensuring that national constitutions expressly set forth the principle of equality between women and men and prohibit all forms of sex discrimination; making secondary legislation consistent with constitutional provisions that reflect international commitments in that regard and with all provisions that safeguard human rights.
Strategic action V.1.f	Including specific provisions in national legislation to safeguard respect for the rights of uprooted and migrant women and women who belong to particular ethnic groups.
Strategic action V.1.g	Promoting the promulgation of affirmative-action laws to expedite the process of achieving equity between women and men.
Strategic action V.1.h	Decentralizing and broadening the coverage of services for the administration of justice, especially in rural and marginal urban areas, and adopting other mechanisms to give women greater access to legal services.
Strategic action V.1.i	Disseminating information on legally recognized human rights so that women become fully aware of them and learn to demand that they be respected in all areas of national life.
Strategic action V.1.j	Urging States to incorporate gender-sensitive educational programmes on human rights into all levels of formal and non-formal education and training programmes for government officials.
Strategic action V.1.k	Creating or strengthening appropriate national and subregional mechanisms and follow-up procedures for promoting the human rights enshrined in national and international instruments, particularly the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Vienna

	<p>Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights and the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons, as well as procedures for reporting human rights violations; guaranteeing the effective involvement of women's movements in such mechanisms and procedures, and paying special attention to all forms of violence against women in situations of vulnerability and discrimination —particularly forced prostitution of women and girls, sexual abuse of and trafficking in women, teenagers and children, and sexual harassment in the workplace— and to the victims of such crimes.</p>
Strategic action V.1.l	<p>Adopting a theoretical framework with which more effective steps can be taken to promote equality and combat violence, taking the concept of human rights as the cornerstone of that framework; to that end, including the subject of human rights in national education programmes to ensure that all women are fully aware of the human rights enshrined in international and national law so that they can promote and protect those rights.</p>
Strategic action V.1.m	<p>Encouraging the efforts of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to prepare an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, providing for the right of individual petition, as recommended in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights.</p>
Strategic action V.1.n	<p>Creating the necessary conditions and providing sufficient resources for the incorporation into society of women affected by armed conflicts and pervasive violence, with special emphasis on young, refugee, displaced and repatriated women. Providing the means to facilitate intervention by human rights organizations and women's organizations so that their efforts can help prevent and eliminate all forms of violence or abuse perpetrated against women.</p>
Strategic action V.1.o	<p>Creating conditions in which victims of human rights violations, particularly those deriving from political violence, are assured of the right to take appropriate action under civil, criminal and administrative law.</p>
Strategic action V.1.p	<p>Establishing more appropriate legal, psychological and medical services for victims of human rights violations and violence, and giving priority to the allocation of resources to establish, operate and develop such services.</p>
Strategic action V.1.q	<p>Promoting the adoption and implementation of an international convention against all forms of overt and covert sexual</p>

	exploitation, including sex tourism and child prostitution, which provides for the establishment of social services to assist victims of all forms of sexual exploitation and for the prosecution of traffickers and managers of the sex industry.
Strategic action V.1.r	Establishing and strengthening programmes to promote a culture of peace, foster peace processes and help eradicate violence in society and in the upbringing of girls and boys, with particular emphasis on the elimination of the type of violence portrayed in the mass media, including that in the movies, on television and in cartoons.
Strategic action V.1.s	Promoting research on violence against women of all ages, using non-traditional statistics and data from other available sources and devising a system for recording such information, disaggregated by sex, in public entities that deal with situations of violence, such as police departments, legal offices and health services; disseminating the findings thereof, conducting public awareness campaigns and integrating reports and studies by Governments and specialized non-governmental organizations for that purpose; and ensuring that States cooperate with regional and international research mechanisms.
Strategic action V.1.t	Urging the region's Governments to sign, ratify and implement the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS).
Strategic action V.1.u	Giving priority to proposed legislation in the economics field that would help ensure women's access to the resources they need for integral development, as well as to capital and markets.
Strategic action V.1.v	Promoting the adoption of measures to protect women's reproductive rights.*
Strategic action V.1.w	Adopting the recommendations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) on recognizing the value of housework.

* The delegations of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action. The delegation of Argentina said that it accepted the concept of reproductive rights as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Strategic objective V.2

To promote action to make visible and eliminate all types and forms of violence against women.

- Strategic action V.2.a** Heightening the visibility of the phenomenon of violence through legislation, and penalizing it as a public problem of law-and-order; promoting the decentralization of systems for reporting acts of violence and of mechanisms for providing protection against all forms of violence against women.
- Strategic action V.2.b** Promoting the conduct of awareness, training and development programmes, incorporating the gender perspective, to ensure that persons and organizations that deal with female victims of violence or disabled women can provide timely and increasingly humanized technical responses.
- Strategic action V.2.c** Raising the consciousness of women to make them aware of how women are portrayed as objects in advertisements and in programmes which do not highlight women's full capacity.
- Strategic action V.2.d** Implementing training activities aimed at the communications media and journalists' associations to ensure that they promote respect for women and censure violence against women.
- Strategic action V.2.e** Promoting research and studies on the situation of women, taking into account the specific features of different vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination, to influence the formulation and reformulation of laws and policies to eradicate violence in all its manifestations.

Strategic objective V.3

To sensitize the mass media to the impact of the pervasive culture of violence, with the aim of eradicating the image of women in the media, which is the product of discrimination.

- Strategic action V.3.a** Carrying out mass communication campaigns to promote peace, tolerance, solidarity and mutual respect.
- Strategic action V.3.b** Promoting information activities or campaigns on the existence of a pervasive culture of violence in the region, its manifestations in the form of violence against women and possible techniques for addressing both problems positively by eliminating the discriminatory image of women in public advertisement, television and radio programmes and the print media.
- Strategic action V.3.c** Providing gender sensitivity training for personnel in the communications sectors, especially film producers; audio, visual and print media; advertising and marketing personnel and their agencies; and specialized organizations and associations, in order to reduce and eliminate the negative and stereotyped images of women and the impact of these images on the perpetuation of and increase in violence against women in particular and society in general.

AREA VI: SHARED FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) The discrepancy in some countries between traditional family structure and the forms family structure takes in the different communities that make up the region.
- b) Persistence of the roles socially assigned to women within the family.
- c) Scarcity of services to meet basic family needs.
- d) Failure to recognize motherhood as a social responsibility at the level of everyday life.
- e) Predominance of the patriarchal concept of the family.
- f) Insufficient recognition of and support for diverse family types.

Progress

- a) Legal recognition of the variety of family structures in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and concern for the issue of shared family responsibilities.*
- b) Increased recognition of the economic value of women's unwaged work including housework.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE VI

Promoting more equitable sharing of family responsibilities between women and men, stimulating public debate on the need for greater flexibility in social roles and fostering recognition of the diversity of existing family structures.

* The Ecuadorian delegation entered a reservation with respect to this subparagraph.

Strategic objective VI

To stimulate, in all areas of society, processes of change to consolidate democratic family structures.

Strategic action VI.a	Promoting public campaigns and the necessary changes in educational plans and programmes in order to raise society's awareness of the value of the time socially necessary for the care of the home and family and of the need for equitable distribution of these tasks among all members of the household.
Strategic action VI.b	Promoting the implementation of communication strategies to highlight issues such as the new roles being played by women in society, the diversity of family structures and the democratization of the distribution of housework among members of households, women and men, promoting democratic relations among family members.*
Strategic action VI.c	Conducting studies and establishing mechanisms to quantify the contribution and the economic value of the unpaid work performed by women, especially housework, participation in agriculture and the care and feeding of children, and incorporating that contribution into national accounts.**
Strategic action VI.d	Persuading Governments to increase budgetary allocations to social development programmes, and harmonizing economic adjustment measures with actions to strengthen the capacities of families of all types to ensure their proper development and socialization.***
Strategic action VI.e	Ensuring, in each country, that women and men have access to contraceptives and that women are enabled to exercise their reproductive rights freely; promoting research on scientific methods of regulating male fertility to balance the use of contraceptives for women. In the context of this action, it is considered that, as stated in paragraph 8.25 of the Programme

* The delegations of Dominican Republic and Honduras entered reservations on this strategic action.

** The delegation of France entered a reservation on this strategic action.

*** The delegations of Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru entered reservations on this strategic action.

	of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, "in circumstances in which abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe".
Strategic action VI.f	Helping families to improve parenting skills in order to help combat gender biases; fostering the analysis of families as the place where the socialization process significantly contributes to the origin of the gender-based division of labour and gender stereotypes.
Strategic action VI.g	Stressing the need for Governments to recognize, in their migration and assignment policies, the importance of enhancing the development potential of families, preserving their integrity and contributing to their reunification.
Strategic action VI.h	Demanding that the State provide favourable conditions for motherhood and breast-feeding, and raising society's awareness of its shared responsibility for protecting these practices.
Strategic action VI.i	Fostering and encouraging the equal participation of women and men by promoting measures such as parental leave for both sexes, to enable them to achieve a better balance between their household and public responsibilities. Taking steps to ensure that the rights of the child are observed, with particular reference to adequate financial support from parents, by way of the enforcement of laws on child-support payments, and to the legal and social protection of children from all forms of child abuse.
Strategic action VI.j	Conducting gender studies to identify institutional barriers to equal access to justice, and imposing remedies in cases where gender bias has tainted the decision of the courts.
Strategic action VI.k	Promoting the consideration of housework as an economic contribution in the relevant legislation.

* The delegations of Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru entered a reservation on this strategic action. The delegation of Argentina said that it accepted the concept of reproductive rights as reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

AREA VII: RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL PLURALITY IN THE REGION

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Persistence of cultural models which exclude, silence or distort women's identity and knowledge in all areas of social life and which are expressed within the family, education, mass communication and art.
- b) The exclusion or marginalization of some groups of people in the decision-making process on the basis of cultural or ethnic factors, which results in dual discrimination in the case of women.
- c) The exclusion of some groups of people from full participation in the political process, and from the social, political and economic benefits of development.
- d) Persistent discrimination against women in the mass media, which is a factor that limits their presence in decision-making positions.

Progress

- a) The formation of women's organizations that are transmitting their own culture and ethnic values, and defending their right to participate.
- b) Greater openness at the global level with respect to recognizing cultural plurality and strengthening its visibility. Examples of such a process are the proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development and of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, as well as the convening of the World Summit for Social Development.
- c) Incipient recognition of women's contribution to culture throughout history.
- d) The increasing involvement of women in the creation of alternative communications, organizations and networks in the fields of culture and communications.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE VII

Promoting cultural equity and respect for cultural diversity resulting in the visible and equitable participation of women and men of all ethnic and cultural groups both in the region and within their societies.

Strategic objective VII.1

To recognize and value women's cultural plurality and to meet their needs in terms of gender equity, respecting cultural diversity and identities.

Strategic action VII.1.a

Supporting the cause of indigenous peoples, ethnic groups and other vulnerable groups that suffer from discrimination so that they can preserve their cultural identity and define their own development goals, and supporting the organization of women in these groups so that they can participate equitably in designing, managing and administering such development efforts.

Strategic action VII.1.b

Promoting the enactment of the necessary legislation to ensure that indigenous languages are recognized and officially used in areas where indigenous peoples live, and adopting measures to facilitate the education of people in their own language and the teaching of the official language as a second language.

Strategic objective VII.2

To provide women and men with education from an early age to promote sensitivity to and knowledge of human sexuality, gender equity and cultural diversity.

Strategic action VII.2.a

Highlighting the negative impact on women of the sexism rooted in family structure and relations.

Strategic action VII.2.b

Promoting a positive attitude towards women's integration into public life and men's integration into private life.

Strategic objective VII.3

To motivate families and those belonging to the education system and social organizations who are involved in the creation and transmission of culture to give equal value to different cultures, and to respect gender equity in all forms of cultural expression.

**Strategic action
VII.3.a**

Implementing actions to motivate the family, the educational system and all social organizations to become involved in the creation and transmission of culture, to ensure that they assign equal value to the sexes and respect gender equity in all forms of cultural expression. Ensuring that the existing cultural plurality and diversity is reflected in the visible and equitable participation of the members of all ethnic groups in the wider areas of society.

Strategic objective VII.4

To encourage the development of a pluralistic, non-discriminatory social image of women in culture and communications.

**Strategic action
VII.4.a**

Projecting a realistic and pluralistic image of women in the messages transmitted and campaigns waged by Governments and organizations of civil society through the mass media, and promoting the extension of that image to all of the messages conveyed by the mass media.

**Strategic action
VII.4.b**

Encouraging women's involvement as spokespersons on issues of public interest.

Strategic objective VII.5

To promote women's participation and initiatives in matters relating to artistic and cultural expression, particularly where the goal is to counteract violence against women.

**Strategic action
VII.5.a**

Fostering women's artistic and cultural development by promoting their participation in creative processes and in competitions, programmes and other activities in the cultural field.

**Strategic action
VII.5.b**

Promoting women's participation in high-level positions in national and intergovernmental public entities that organize and finance artistic and cultural projects.

Strategic objective VII.6

To eliminate sexist expressions from linguistic usage, and to help create a form of discourse that expresses the reality of women.

**Strategic action
VII.6.a**

Promoting the adoption of measures to eliminate sexist expressions in linguistic usage and to help create a form of discourse that expresses the reality of women's situation, especially in school curricula and educational materials.

Strategic objective VII.7

To allow women access to new telecommunications and information technologies and train them to operate the systems in question.

**Strategic action
VII.7.a**

Stimulating the establishment of information networks linking women to organizations concerned with gender issues, to promote and support efforts towards cultural change.

**Strategic action
VII.7.b**

Promoting women's participation in the development of innovative initiatives in the mass media, especially with respect to the incorporation of new information technologies.

Strategic objective VII.8

To strengthen women's participation in decision-making in the mass media.

**Strategic action
VII.8.a**

Systematically and continually raising awareness of the goal of non-discrimination against women among media managers and professionals of both sexes.

AREA VIII: INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION

DIAGNOSIS

Obstacles

- a) Tardy and unequal access to international cooperation for the application of the Nairobi strategies.
- b) A lack of emphasis and application of women-in-development approaches, and limited flexibility for incorporating the gender perspective in cooperation policies and programmes of some organizations from the viewpoint of acquisition and exercise of power by women.
- c) Weakness in strategic planning and the failure to adopt indicators which facilitate an assessment of behaviour, directionality and impact in projects financed by different organizations.
- d) Limited access to financing in major areas such as research, diagnosis, systematization, and follow-up of actions, as well as in training, raising of awareness and communication.
- e) Conditions (even if only occasional) imposed by a number of cooperation agencies and organizations which do not entirely reflect women's interests.

Progress

- a) Financial contribution for the development of projects designed to generate income and which target women in vulnerable situations.
- b) Support for the establishment and strengthening of women's organizations and for the creation of alternative services.
- c) Technical and financial cooperation that promote Government institutions dedicated to the advancement of women.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINE VIII

Ensuring that at the policy level international cooperation incorporates the gender perspective in carrying out autonomous, integrated projects.

Strategic objective VIII

To promote, among international support agencies, Governments and civil society, actions leading to ongoing processes for the analysis and monitoring of cooperation policies that incorporate the gender perspective.

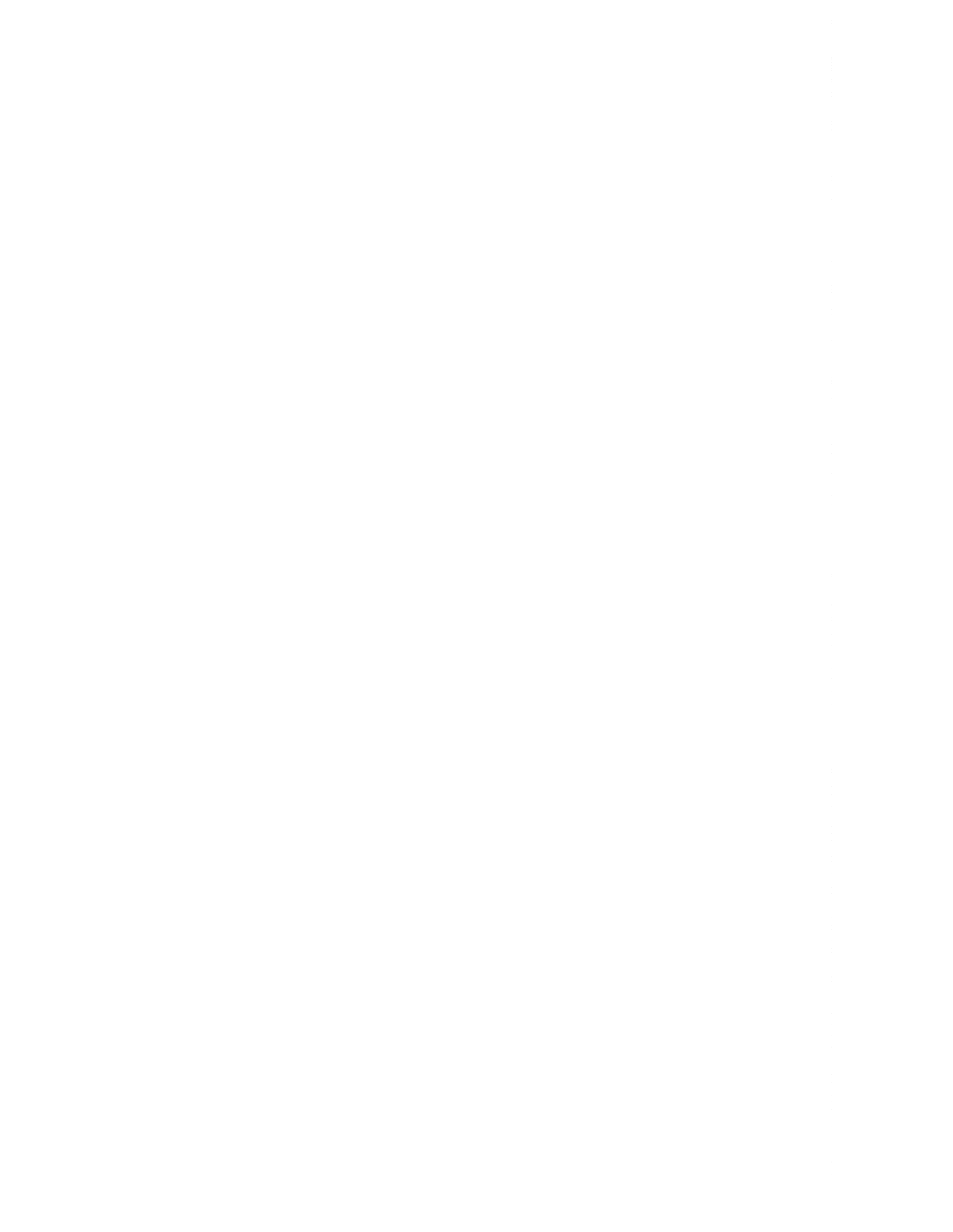
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| Strategic action
VIII.a | Negotiating with bilateral and multilateral organizations on increasing the amount of funds earmarked for the implementation of actions, plans and projects through which the countries can put this Regional Programme of Action into practice, considering research as a priority aspect of their design and execution and emphasizing gender training for both government officials and international cooperation agency staff. |
| Strategic action
VIII.b | Urging international cooperation agencies to support the conduct of a critical analysis of the structural causes and the effects of poverty among women, with a view to reorienting and channelling resources to help achieve the objectives of the Regional Programme of Action. |
| Strategic action
VIII.c | Promoting an ongoing process of dialogue among Governments, government institutions for women, international cooperation agencies and women's organizations, through the establishment of national commissions to promote coordination and collaboration and to facilitate the analysis of various processes, the identification of cooperation priorities and the new theoretical approaches that emerge from the day-to-day implementation of actions. All the participants in those commissions should be involved in designing and monitoring the national plan of action deriving from this Regional Programme of Action. |

Strategic action VIII.d	Ensuring that this Programme of Action is used as a frame of reference in distributing the support of international cooperation and that efforts are made to strengthen the operations and mechanisms of both government and non-governmental agencies that promote the advancement of women at all levels.
Strategic action VIII.e	Urging cooperation agencies to establish and guarantee the operation of inter-agency committees at the national, regional and international levels, in order to coordinate their actions and contribute to the implementation of this Regional Programme of Action in the context of their respective mandates.
Strategic action VIII.f	Promoting horizontal negotiation between cooperation agencies and organizations of the women's movement with a view to increasing the amount of funds earmarked for women's projects.

E. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-2001

Upon adopting this Programme of Action, at its sixth session, the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean requests:

- a) That ECLAC continue to convene regular sessions of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into Development as a forum for monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action and evaluating its effectiveness and for making adjustments in priority areas and actions, as required.
- b) That the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean assume responsibility for following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in collaboration with Governments, and with the participation of national bodies responsible for policies and programmes for women as well as of the subregional groupings.
- c) That with a view to keeping the Programme of Action up to date, the ECLAC Secretariat take into account the results of the meetings of United Nations forums which bear directly or indirectly on the situation of women, so as to incorporate them, where appropriate, into the recommendations of the regular regional conferences on women.
- d) That the ECLAC secretariat continue to assist the Presiding Officers in ensuring the best possible coordination with the specialized agencies and organizations in the United Nations system, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental bodies whose work is related to the status of women and promotion of the gender perspective.
- e) That the ECLAC secretariat present to the Presiding Officers a list of such agencies and organizations, to be regularly updated, including all the organizations that constitute the core body of institutions whose work is linked to the Regional Programme and whose cooperation should be actively sought.



Annex 1

SANTIAGO CONSENSUS

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,

Recalling that at its sixth session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 1994, the Regional Conference identified the obstacles to the improvement of women's living conditions and position in society and formulated the proposals contained in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at that session,

Taking into account that, in the light of the international priorities identified by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations on the basis of the Platform for Action,¹ and the regional priorities emanating from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, the Presiding Officers elected at the sixth session of the Regional Conference –in consultation with member countries– established the goal for the seventh session of identifying more precisely the obstacles to the effective practice by women of their citizenship, particularly with respect to access to power and participation in decision-making, as well as those stemming from poverty, with a view to proposing measures to overcome them more rapidly,

1. Welcomes the documents prepared by the secretariat for the seventh session of the Regional Conference, acknowledging that they reflect the requirements expressed by the Governments with respect to the topics addressed therein;²

2. Notes with satisfaction that during the 1990s, the issue of gender has received growing attention in other intergovernmental forums, among others United Nations world conferences and the following regional meetings:

a) The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication (28 October-1 November 1996), which adopted the Directional Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean;

b) The First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (São Paulo, 6-9 April 1997), which adopted the Consensus of São Paulo;³

c) The CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (Georgetown, 6-8 August 1997), which adopted the Georgetown Consensus;

¹ These priorities are listed in the report of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995.

² Especially with reference to the analysis and proposals contained in the documents entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)) and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1064 (CRM.7/5)).

³ For the full text of the Consensus of São Paulo, see ECLAC, Report of the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (LC/G.1972(CONF.86/4)), Santiago, Chile, 1997.

3. Reaffirms the agreements and commitments made at those meetings and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

4. Notes with satisfaction that in the period since the Fourth World Conference on Women there has been a strong move towards the inclusion of the issue of gender on governmental agendas and in State machinery, including the establishing and strengthening of national machineries for women's development in the region, and that various countries have adopted plans to promote equal opportunities for women in which, *inter alia*, measures are proposed for eradicating poverty and increasing women's participation in decision-making processes and their access to power;

5. Notes with interest the continuing work of women parliamentarians, politicians and ministers, who have been promoting the issue of gender at decision-making levels, as well as strengthening the coordination of women's non-governmental organizations at the regional, subregional and national levels;

6. Emphasizes the importance of the elements of the diagnostic analysis contained in the reports of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000";

7. Proposes, three years after the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which served as the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women:

a) To accelerate the process of implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action, the Regional Programme of Action and the CARICOM Plan of Action, by incorporating into national development strategies solutions to the problem of the inequality of women through public policies and programmes at the national level to train skilled human resources, productive employment programmes, changes in school curricula, amendments to existing legislation and the inclusion of the gender perspective in all programmes;

b) To apply to development an integrated approach linking social and economic policies in order to achieve equity, bearing in mind that, if development is to be sustainable, the gender perspective must be explicitly brought into these policies, since all plans, programmes and policies inevitably embody a certain viewpoint on gender and determine on that basis what roles individuals should play in society; to ensure that plans and programmes fully incorporate an appropriate gender perspective in their policies and decisions ("mainstreaming") and provide for the equitable distribution of resources in society;

c) To ensure, in the course of the modernization of the government apparatus and public-sector reform which is under way in virtually all the countries of the region, that priority is given by the State to the social development agenda;

d) To strengthen national mechanisms or government offices for the promotion of women in the technical, budgetary and politico-administrative spheres, in order to enable them effectively to exercise their functions of managing and monitoring public policies to foster gender equity, which is the responsibility of all State entities;

e) To allocate in the national budget the necessary resources for the implementation of actions towards women's advancement, especially those oriented to eradicating poverty among women and providing women with greater access to decision-making positions;

f) To incorporate the development of gender indicators by gathering all statistical information disaggregated by sex, especially in national censuses, economic and household surveys and other statistical registers; to create a data bank of gender indicators that can be periodically updated;

g) To stress the need for a participatory, coherent and coordinated approach among all partners in development in the implementation of national poverty eradication plans or programmes that fully take into account the gender perspective;

h) To introduce a gender perspective in environmental planning in order to ensure the inclusion of women in decision-making and in the evaluation of the impact of natural disasters, in keeping with the important contribution of women to economic and social development and environmental protection, which are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

i) To design and implement policies to encourage women's participation at the national, federal and local level; to incorporate the gender perspective in local government agendas and policies, especially those concerning training; and to use networks of women's organizations to strengthen their activities and establish alliances with other institutions;

j) To incorporate gender analysis into studies of migratory movements, since the figures reveal an increasingly significant involvement of women in the phenomenon; to incorporate analysis of such aspects as the special features of migration deriving from women's involvement, the impact it has on children, the disadvantages women face in comparison with men in the receiving cities, and the fact that in many communities male migration leaves women to cope with the problems of family subsistence and management of the household's resources; to identify and analyse not only international migration, but also emerging phenomena such as movements of temporary workers and migrants and migration within and between cities, which have increased considerably over the past few decades;

k) To promote respect for the human rights of women who are refugees, migrants, internally displaced or otherwise uprooted and face problems of security due to the situation in which they live and their gender, as well as women who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation;

l) To encourage the countries to pass and review legislation concerning the situation of refugees and displaced persons so that it incorporates the gender perspective and explicitly recognizes gender-based persecution as one of the grounds on which a person may be considered a refugee;

m) To urge that all persons, especially women and girls and among them especially those who live in rural areas, are members of indigenous groups, or are uprooted, have the proper legal documentation, so that they are guaranteed the exercise of their rights;

n) To promote the recognition that power-sharing in all spheres, from private to public is the key objective towards which all actions should converge, since it is an essential requirement of democracy, and to promote the reinforcement of women's role as citizens, understood as their active participation in society via access to all decision-making levels;⁴

o) To give stronger consideration to affirmative, positive action, including such mechanisms as establishing a minimum percentage of representation for both sexes, in order to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in political representation, boards, commissions and other public appointments, and in the granting of national honours and awards, bearing in mind that some Governments within the region have already agreed to this;

p) To promote the establishment and support the strengthening and work of women's organizations and networks in order to help reinforce their capacity to influence public and political affairs in the countries;

q) To undertake to develop and institutionalize systems for structuring and compiling sex-disaggregated information on political participation, focusing on the differential access of women and men to political decision-making positions in organized civil society; to disseminate such information widely on a regular basis;

r) To design and develop, as part of the plans, programmes and public policies geared to ensuring the effective exercise of women's political rights, training strategies for men, with a view to arousing in them a sensitivity to women's political rights, and for women, with a view to helping to strengthen their capacity for leadership and for influencing public and political affairs; such training should have a strategic orientation and a sense of process, so that it does not translate into limited, isolated or uncoordinated activities;

s) To develop special plans for young women aimed at strengthening their capacity for and interest in leadership and influencing their choice of profession;

t) To facilitate the exercise by women of their right to equal access to ownership and control of property, especially in rural areas;

u) To encourage shared responsibility for roles within the family so that they are more compatible with the actual activities of its members, promoting public policies to that end and the enactment of new legislation which contributes to an equitable distribution of duties and rights within the family; to design and implement, especially at the local level, programmes to support the family in performing new and complex functions, ensuring that they emphasize the aspects of solidarity and non-discrimination; and to establish child-care centres in neighbourhoods, business firms and government agencies;

⁴ As has been recognized by the countries in various international instruments, most notably the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.

v) To ensure maternity leave and promote the extension of leave to the fathers, in order to encourage both parents to share the responsibility for the care of their children, and to eliminate barriers to the hiring of women;

w) To promote programmes to enhance women's access to the labour market and to employment which take into consideration their control over resources; to implement political and legal reforms to prevent gender discrimination and set up mechanisms to help put an end to the division of labour between men and women and the segmentation of employment;

x) To establish mechanisms to encourage companies to hire and train women; to work to ensure that programmes of both the public and private sectors provide funding for training purposes which also benefit women;

y) To establish national mechanisms which permit the monitoring of compliance with international and national labour standards;

z) To create mechanisms for ensuring maximum dissemination of information on jobs, wages and legal norms; to give wide publicity to laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, both male and female, and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and to conduct campaigns to promote the image of women as subjects who have rights, capable of creating new frames of reference for themselves;

aa) To analyse the design and implementation of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies and their impact on women's quality of life, with the participation of the Governments, ECLAC, the multilateral financial institutions and the organized women's movement, with the aim of taking appropriate measures to correct any negative effects of such policies;

bb) To urge regional and international organizations to provide financial and technical cooperation to conduct research and undertake other initiatives on women and poverty, paying particular attention to, *inter alia*, women's unpaid and low-paid work;

cc) To develop gender-sensitive teaching materials, classroom methods and curricula and gender-training programmes for teachers in order to break down gender stereotypes and offer non-discriminatory education and training aimed at the physical and intellectual development of girls and boys, recognizing that teacher training is an essential component of gender-sensitive programmes for eliminating the differential behavioural expectations of girls and boys that reinforce the division of labour by gender; to promote research into methods for improving teachers' capacity to impart gender-sensitive instruction and to disseminate such methods widely in order to support the development of multicultural, gender-sensitive curricula in all areas of instruction;

dd) To support the establishment of education research centres, or strengthen those already existing, which would take responsibility for disseminating research findings within the region, thereby avoiding duplication and waste and maximizing scarce resources;

ee) To design and implement policies geared to raising women's earning potential (wage policies, job training and retraining, and support for microenterprises), ensuring adequate employment conditions in order to improve the situation of poor households;

ff) To carry out regular training programmes on gender awareness and planning for civil servants at both national and local government levels, in order to help them to analyse the different effects sectoral policies and programmes have on men and women and to ensure equality of opportunity;

gg) To accelerate action in promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres through the implementation of:

- i) Gender analysis and planning;
- ii) Gender management systems;
- iii) Gender impact assessments;

hh) To formulate and implement pilot programmes on the national level that apply the gender dimension to the planning process; a suggested theme is poverty eradication, which requires a multisectoral approach, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness and operativity of this type of planning;

ii) To emphasize the prevention of violence against women and children and the prosecution of offenders and urge the enactment of legislation where it does not already exist; to promote legal aid for poorer women to ensure their access to such legislation where it does exist, and the provision of counselling services for the victim and rehabilitation for the perpetrator of violence against women; to develop appropriate training, advocacy and awareness programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational, media and police personnel to sensitize them to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence, to ensure fair treatment of female victims and compliance with legislation on violence against women and children;

jj) To conduct studies and adopt measures to enforce the implementation of international agreements related to women, within institutional frameworks;

kk) To support the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its monitoring of the related Convention;

ll) To contribute to the process of elaborating and revising the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

mm) To support and foster the active participation of citizens, particularly women, in ensuring the accountability of State commitments regarding development;

nn) To promote affirmative actions and programmes in order to eliminate inequality based on age, ethnicity or race, as well as socio-economic status, and to facilitate the access to development of those groups which have been discriminated against and marginalized;

oo) To continue making efforts to allocate and distribute new and additional resources from all available funding sources for development;

pp) To formulate and improve programmes aimed at protecting the health and sexual and reproductive rights of women, in accordance with the provisions adopted at the Cairo and Beijing Conferences;

qq) To develop and strengthen comprehensive preventive and health care programmes, designed specifically for women, that are accessible and cover both rural and urban areas and provide sufficient high-quality care, paying particular attention to the most common problems that limit their activity and shorten their lives, such as iron deficiency anaemia, malnutrition and frequent psychological and mental problems, often overlooked;

rr) To promote information, education and appropriate preventive and support services on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, recognizing that pregnancy in adolescence has social and economic effects;

ss) To endorse the proposals which place emphasis on education in the exercise of full citizenship and urge the Governments to guarantee, through their women's offices and in collaboration with organizations in society, the operation of leadership training programmes for women holding public office; such programmes should permit the development of self-esteem and technical and political capabilities by women policy-makers from a gender perspective;

tt) To increase the coverage and quality of education and eliminate existing barriers preventing girls and adolescent women from enjoying this right, fundamental for the full exercise of citizenship; to expand the coverage of adult literacy programmes for women;

uu) To effectively address issues of women's poverty, as well as women's absence from positions of decision-making, which requires a parallel concern for issues of masculinity and traditional male attitudes and behaviour and their impact on areas of sexuality and relations of power and domination of women, recognizing that this is a growing concern in many countries of the region which needs to be examined with a view to promoting more positive male attitudes and behaviour in the private and public spheres;

vv) To promote the conduct of research on women and governance and gender socialization with a view to arriving at strategies to improve women's involvement in power and decision-making at all levels; and

ww) To promote access by women to modern communication media and state-of-the-art technology through ongoing training.

Annex 2

LIMA CONSENSUS

The countries represented at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that six years have passed since the adoption of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, five since the adoption of the Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and three since the seventh session of the Regional Conference, which identified obstacles and established priority areas of action through the Santiago Consensus,

Considering the Port-of-Spain Consensus, adopted at the Third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women, held in October 1999,

Reiterating its adherence to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as the legal framework for commitments undertaken at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and our primary responsibility for implementation and accountability in respect of these agreements,

Recognizing the existence of a global consensus as to the relevance and urgent need to fulfil all commitments assumed at regional and international intergovernmental meetings, especially the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the World Summit for Social Development (1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), and at the five-year review processes for those conferences, as well as the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (1996) and the World Food Summit (1996),

Acknowledging the efforts undertaken by the Governments of the region to mainstream the gender perspective in public policy and to create mechanisms for formulating policies to promote equity and equality,

Asserting the need to accelerate, further, and consolidate successes already achieved and to take vigorous action to overcome constraints and obstacles created by the persistence of policies and cultural practices that do not take into account the gender perspective and therefore accentuate inequities, particularly in regard to gender,

Concerned by the persistence of discrimination in relation to the enjoyment of human rights, which are universal, indivisible, inalienable and interdependent,

According priority to overcoming, in the shortest possible span of time, all obstacles to sustainable human development, the elimination of poverty, the attainment of social justice, and the equitable participation of women in political affairs and their access to full citizenship in the countries of the region,

Recognizing that in spite of the apparent and real advances made by women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, the fundamental structure of gender relations remains disadvantageous to the majority of them,

Concerned by the profound economic and social inequities and the escalation of the culture of violence, including gender-based violence, which are apparent in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that economic globalization, trade liberalization, structural adjustment programmes, external debt and the resulting migration patterns are factors which, among others, can have specific and sometimes negative impacts on the lives and situation of women, particularly those of the least economically developed regions, and can cause the dislocation of families, communities and nations,

Concerned with the inadequate allocation of resources for development and for the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing,

Recognizing the importance of working to ensure that women are able to participate on an equal footing and are properly represented in the media,

Recognizing the important contribution of non-governmental organizations, especially those concerned with women's issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, including those set up following the Fourth World Conference on Women, in connection with the implementation, monitoring and appraisal of the Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action and with the design and implementation of public policies aimed at promoting gender equity and equality,

Welcoming the documents prepared by the secretariat for the eighth session of the Regional Conference, especially the document entitled "The Challenge of Gender Equity and Human Rights on the Threshold of the Twenty-first Century"; and acknowledging that it reflects the consensus view of the Governments of the region following a series of evaluations and reports prepared, in many cases, with the participation of civil society,

Having discussed the subject of "Gender equity: the foundation for a just and equitable society" and, within that context, two strategic areas of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, namely, (1) gender equity, and (2) human rights, peace and violence,

The countries represented at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean undertake to:

(a) Strengthen the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action beyond the year 2001, promote the effective implementation of the Platform for Action, and participate actively in the appraisal of and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(b) Promote the effective application of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women as a legal framework

for all programmatic action in connection with those two instruments, and appeal to the States parties to review their reservations to both conventions;

(c) Urge the States of the region to sign, ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(d) Reorient public policies, placing social and gender equity at the centre of governmental concerns, and achieve this by systematically basing these policies on assessments of their differential impact on men and women and monitoring their implementation;

(e) Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and the promotion of equal opportunity and endow them with sufficient amounts of all relevant types of resources, a legal identity and budgetary autonomy, along with political support at the highest level so that they may, *inter alia*, promote and monitor gender policies on a transversal basis;

(f) Promote socio-economic policies that foster growth and sustainable development with equity and equality in order to combat the intergenerational transmission of poverty by allocating, redistributing and increasing resources;

(g) Emphasize the need for a coherent, coordinated and participatory approach among all partners in development in the implementation of national poverty eradication plans and programmes which fully take into account the gender perspective;

(h) Promote positive actions to overcome any negative effects of globalization and trade liberalization and to ensure equal and fair access to its benefits and opportunities;

(i) Orient State policies so as to redress inequalities and guarantee the protection of the human rights of women and girls, devoting special attention to rural and indigenous, black, disabled, displaced, migrant and refugee women, focusing action on the elimination of the existing gap between *de facto* and *de jure* equality and taking into account the pluricultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual nature of the countries of the region;

(j) Strengthen democracy in the region through the adoption of policies and measures that facilitate women's rights to full and equal citizenship and their participation in decision-making in all sectors and at all levels, bearing in mind that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems;

(k) Support the strengthening of women's organizations and networks and their work in civil society, in order to increase their capacity to influence public affairs in the countries as they relate to the search for a solution to the problem of women's inequality and their participation in the design, evaluation and monitoring of public policies at all levels;

(l) Support the implementation of plans and programmes of action aimed at ensuring access to education for girls and boys together with satisfactory educational coverage and quality, promote the elimination of all forms of sexist discrimination in educational processes and content, and do away with the stereotypes that are perpetuated through these channels;

(m) Promote a cultural change whereby all sectors of society will become involved in the empowerment of women and in the search for gender equity and equality, in particular by engaging men as active and integral players in this change;

(n) Guarantee the protection of women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and address violations of these rights with particular attention to all forms of gender-based violence and its root causes, including the reproduction of a culture of violence;

(o) Guarantee, at the national level, preventive and comprehensive health care for women and equitable access to quality health care services at all stages of their lives, bearing in mind the differential impact of gender in terms of health and illness;

(p) Formulate and improve programmes designed to safeguard women's health and uphold their sexual and reproductive rights in accordance with the provisions adopted in Cairo at the International Conference on Population and Development and in Beijing at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(q) Promote measures to ensure a better quality of life for women at all stages in their lives, and especially for elderly women;

(r) Prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls and their underlying causes;

(s) Promote and mobilize, with the support of international cooperation, the resources necessary to protect and care for women and children who are victims of armed conflict;

(t) Promote peace according to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter as an indispensable condition for achieving social and economic development with equity;

(u) Develop strategies for creating more and better jobs for women along with equitable systems for providing social protection;

(v) Promote recognition of the social and economic contribution made by the unpaid work performed by women, predominantly in the home, and urge Governments to provide them with social security coverage;

(w) Promote action aimed at fostering equitable access for women to communications and new information technologies and at helping to counteract stereotypes of women in the media;

(x) Strengthen systems for collecting and processing statistical data disaggregated by sex, and adopt the use of gender indicators that will contribute to a baseline analysis of the status of women and to the implementation of public policies at the national and regional levels and that will make it possible to improve the monitoring and assessment of regional and international agreements;

(y) Urge bilateral and multilateral international cooperation agencies to strengthen their technical and financial support programmes on the basis of mutual respect and to foster an exchange of experiences in light of the fact that international cooperation is an effective means of promoting equality, equity and human rights;

The countries represented at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean resolve:

1. That the Lima Consensus will constitute the region's contribution to the special session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled, "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";
2. To submit the agreements adopted at this session of the Regional Conference to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its consideration at its twenty-eighth session, to be held in Mexico City from 3 to 7 April 2000.

Annex 3

MEXICO CITY CONSENSUS

The Governments of the countries participating in the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gathered in Mexico City from 10 to 12 June 2004,

Recalling that next year will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations World Conference of the International Women's Year (the first of the world conferences on women), held in Mexico in 1975; the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women; and the fifth anniversary of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", of the Millennium Summit and of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering that at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, in February 2000, it was agreed that the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean should be extended beyond 2001,

Bearing in mind that 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 and that its Presiding Officers, at their thirty-fifth meeting, agreed that the ninth session of the Conference should focus on reviewing the implementation and fulfilment of international and regional agreements and on the analysis of two central themes of strategic importance to the region: (i) poverty, economic autonomy and gender equity and (ii) empowerment, political participation and institution-building,

Acknowledging the contribution of the women's movement, in all its manifestations, to the development of public policies with a gender perspective in the region, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, and, in particular, to the development of machineries for the advancement of women at the international, regional and national levels,

Highlighting the significant contribution women make towards reducing poverty and strengthening democracy, gender equality, social justice and development in the countries of the region,

Voicing their concern about the negative social effects of structural adjustment policies and, under certain circumstances, free trade, one of whose dimensions is the fragmentation of social policies, and about heavy external debt service obligations,

Recognizing that the benefits and costs of globalization are inequitably distributed, both within and between countries, and that developing countries face special difficulties in meeting this challenge,

Acknowledging the progress made in the areas of legislation, education, health, labour, measures to end violence, sustainable development and the design of public policies that promote gender equity,

Recognizing that this progress is insufficient and that efforts and available resources must be redoubled if the countries are to meet their common goals and objectives, given the multiple obstacles they continue to face in this regard,

Further recognizing the importance of promoting and strengthening affirmative actions for empowering rural, indigenous, Afro-descendent, young and elderly women and for increasing their access to resources,

Deploring the various forms of violence and their manifestations against women, adolescents and children in the region,

Recognizing the magnitude of migration in the region and the need to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant men and women, while acknowledging the importance of remittances as a major source of foreign exchange in migrants' countries of origin, as well as the positive contribution migrants make to the societies that receive them,

1. Welcome the document prepared by the secretariat, entitled "Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean", and recognize that, as it represents the outcome of a process of consultation with representatives of the States members of the Conference, which included five subregional meetings, two of which were conducted using communication technologies, it reflects an approach that is shared by the Latin American and Caribbean Governments;

2. Reaffirm the agreements adopted at the three subregional preparatory meetings for the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, and South America, held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Honduras and Brazil, respectively, to provide inputs for this ninth session of the Conference;

3. Also reaffirm our commitment to the objectives set out in 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), the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), the Plan of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001) and the Millennium Declaration (New York, 2000) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and to all agreements reaffirming Governments' adherence to this international agenda;¹

4. Reiterate that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Community Plan of Action and the commitments referred to in paragraph 3 above is an essential contribution to the achievement of the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

¹ United Nations, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20), Beijing, 1995; Report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1), Cairo, September 1994; Report of the World Summit for Social Development (A/CONF.166/9), Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995; Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/CONF.189/12), Durban, 31 August - 8 September 2001; Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), New York, September 2000.

5. Note with satisfaction that most of the national delegations accredited to this ninth session of the Conference include parliamentarians and representatives of civil society, in accordance with the agreement adopted at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers;

6. The Governments of the countries participating in the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean reaffirm our determination to:

- (i) Adopt measures in all spheres, particularly the political, social, economic and cultural spheres, including legislative measures and institutional reforms, to ensure the full development and advancement of women of all ages, with a view to guaranteeing their access to justice and their exercise and enjoyment of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men;
- (ii) Strive to incorporate a gender perspective, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, into the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies, using follow-up and assessment instruments and guaranteeing transparency in public management to institutionalize accountability and disseminate information on progress towards the fulfilment of goals and the genuine civic participation of women;
- (iii) Ensure that the gender perspective, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, is fully included in the design and implementation of national development plans and public policies and programmes in all areas of State action, as well as in the process of budgeting resources to finance them;
- (iv) Design and implement public policies that help to redress the conditions of poverty affecting women in the region, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States, and that recognize the differential impact on men and women of the uneven distribution of the benefits and costs of globalization;
- (v) Adopt proactive policies to promote job creation, including affirmative actions for ensuring that men and women enjoy equal conditions in the labour market, and to strengthen women's entrepreneurial capacity, ensuring full respect for their rights at work and their individual rights, as well as their equitable access to the benefits of social protection;
- (vi) Recognize the economic value of unpaid domestic and productive work, afford protection and support to women working in the informal sector, particularly in relation to caregiving services for children and elderly persons, and implement policies for reconciling family and work responsibilities, involving both men and women in this process;
- (vii) Encourage States to include gender impact considerations, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, in developing their national policies and positions relative to the negotiation of bilateral and regional trade agreements, and to include gender equity and equality as a priority within national and regional trade capacity-building strategies;
- (viii) Review and assess policies and legislation with a view to strengthening the parental obligation to pay economic support for boys, girls and adolescents and

other dependants, and exhort States to negotiate treaties for prosecuting and/or collecting monies due from those who evade these obligations;

- (ix) Implement education policies that meet the countries' development needs, encouraging education for all women and promoting their access to economic, technological and scientific activities conducive to their equitable participation in a globalized world;
- (x) Foster a culture of respect for the human rights of women and carry out wide-ranging programmes to raise awareness in this regard at all levels of education, and incorporate human rights education with a gender, racial and ethnic perspective at all levels of education;
- (xi) Review and implement legislation guaranteeing the responsible exercise of sexual and reproductive rights and non-discriminatory access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Lima Consensus;
- (xii) Intensify efforts for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, while safeguarding the rights of women and girls living with the virus and guaranteeing access, without discrimination, to information, care, education and services for HIV/AIDS prevention;
- (xiii) Strengthen the full participation of women in environmental conservation and management with a view to achieving sustainable development;
- (xiv) Take steps to promote and protect the human rights of migrant men and women, in accordance with each country's constitutional precepts and the international instruments in force;
- (xv) Adopt the comprehensive measures needed to eliminate all forms of violence and their manifestations against all women, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and harassment, incest, sexual exploitation and the trafficking and smuggling of women and girls, forced prostitution, murder, systematic rape and violence in situations of armed conflict, among others, and to eliminate unilateral measures contrary to international law and the Charter of the United Nations;
- (xvi) Promote all women's access to information and communication technologies as a means of eradicating poverty and fostering development;
- (xvii) Enhance the development of an information system based on statistics disaggregated by sex, with a view to effectively mainstreaming a gender perspective, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, in all government programmes and policies, placing special emphasis on the issues of poverty, unpaid work, time use, gender-based violence and international migration;
- (xviii) Design and revise laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exists, women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

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- (xix) Guarantee that national machineries for the advancement of women are provided with financial and human resources, build their political capacity and consolidate their institutional status at the highest possible level to ensure that they can fulfil their mandates efficiently and effectively;
 - (xx) Develop closer ties of collaboration between national machineries for women and regional and international organizations;
 - (xxi) Promote the full and equal participation of men and women at all levels of decision-making in the State, society and the marketplace, and promote the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and global levels to progress in the construction and exercise of full citizenship by all the women of the region;
 - (xxii) Develop instruments for monitoring and assessing public policies with a view to mainstreaming a gender perspective, taking racial, ethnic and generational diversity into account, in all State actions;
 - (xxiii) Invite legislative bodies in the region to review their countries' laws with a view to harmonizing them with international instruments concerning human rights and the elimination of discrimination against women, children and adolescents;
 - (xxiv) Urge Governments that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and effectively implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, and to adopt an effective mechanism for the implementation and follow-up of the latter Convention by the States parties thereto;
 - (xxv) Promote international cooperation to support the activities of national machineries for the advancement of women to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, and urge United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to continue to support national efforts to ensure equal rights and create opportunities for women in the region through cooperation programmes, studies and research, among other initiatives, in accordance with their mandates;
7. Welcome the research agenda proposed in the document "Roads towards gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean" and request the ECLAC secretariat to take the necessary steps to put it into practice, in collaboration with Governments in the region and other international organizations;
8. Declare that the Mexico City Consensus shall constitute the region's contribution to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session, to be held in March 2005;
9. Request the Chairperson to submit the present Consensus to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for consideration at its thirtieth session, to be held in June and July 2004;
10. Thank the people and Government of Mexico for having provided the facilities for holding this session of the Conference and for their warm hospitality.