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**Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the
United Nations System on Future Activities to Promote the
Integration of Women into Latin American and Caribbean Development,
in preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women**

Santiago, Chile, 3-4 September 1992

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

92-8-1195

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

1. Background of the meeting

The States members of ECLAC gave the Commission certain mandates concerning the topic of women in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which are contained in the Regional Plan of Action adopted at the First Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, Cuba, in 1977. Among the other duties it assigns to the secretariat, the Plan provides that "the secretariat of CEPAL will consult with the United Nations specialized agencies which have programmes on women's integration in development. For this purpose, CEPAL will regularly convene inter-agency meetings on the implementation of the programmes and mandates of the Conference".¹

Subsequently, these mandates were supplemented by the recommendations adopted at the regular regional conferences (Caracas, Venezuela, 1979; Mexico City, 1983; Guatemala City, 1988) and at the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Lastly, at the Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, in 1991, a resolution was adopted on a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean,² taking into account the changes experienced by the region and the need to adjust the manner of addressing the issue to the new situations and proposals.

Taking into account that the United Nations was preparing for another World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995, ECLAC adopted a resolution at its twenty-fourth session to support regional preparations for the World Conference.³

In the context of preparations for the 1995 World Conference, to be held in Beijing, China, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended regional activities relating to virtually all areas concerning women. Thus, it requested that regional conferences already scheduled include in their agendas preparations for the World Conference and that they "identify regional trends, priorities, obstacles and innovative suggestions for future action and that the results of those regional conferences be provided to the Commission not later than at its thirty-ninth session". Moreover, it recommended that "regional conferences include on their agenda the issue of women in public life, emphasizing their role in politics and decision-making", as well as the issue of entrepreneurship and the advancement of women, emphasizing the need to facilitate entrepreneurial activity through appropriate economic policies, training, access to credit, information and other support systems. These recommendations led the Governments of the region to consider that their next regional conference, scheduled for September 1994 in Argentina, should also serve as a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference in Beijing.

2. Objectives of the meeting

The general objective of the meeting is to consider current regional plans and programmes on the topic of women and to elaborate proposals on substantive and coordination matters as part of the regional preparations for the 1995 World Conference. Specifically, by mandate of its member Governments, ECLAC is to prepare a new plan of action for women, taking into account the changes experienced by the region since the adoption of the current instrument, for submission to the Regional Conference at its sixth session, to be held in Argentina in 1994, pursuant to a resolution 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). The basic idea is that the new regional plan of ECLAC should be elaborated from the outset in coordination with the rest of the United Nations system, especially at the regional level, so that it can act as a mechanism to facilitate future cooperation.

The specific objectives of the meeting will be:

1. To make a synthetic evaluation of priorities, advances and obstacles relating to the topic of women in Latin America and the Caribbean from the perspective of each institution.
2. To outline the main spheres of action on this topic at the regional level for the next three years, and especially after 1995.
3. To consolidate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination among the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, which have operated on a somewhat informal basis to date.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The following provisional agenda will be submitted for consideration at the meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. The current situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, and analysis from a gender perspective
3. Evaluation of the main activities of the United Nations aimed at promoting the integration of women into development since 1975
4. Proposals for activities and priority issues for Latin America and the Caribbean after 1995
5. Measures and mechanisms for coordinating activities relating to women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. The current situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, and analysis from a gender perspective

The secretariat will submit for consideration a summary of the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, which was adopted by the Governments of the region and which forms the context for all of the secretariat's specific proposals at this time. The background documents for this agenda item are:

- Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity. The Prime Task of Latin American and Caribbean Development in the 1990s (LC/G.1601-P);
- Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach (LC/G.1701/Rev.1-P);
- Education and Knowledge: Basic Pillars of Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity (LC/G.1702/Rev.1-P);
- Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: the challenge of changing production patterns with social equity (LC/L.627(CRM.5/4));
- Women in Caribbean development: gender equity in changing production patterns (LC/L.628(CRM.5/5)).

3. Evaluation of the main activities of the United Nations aimed at promoting the integration of women into development since 1975

Under this agenda item, views will be exchanged on United Nations activities over the past 15 years in order to form a more precise idea of events in the region and of the most important spheres of action for the future. Each participant will present a brief, informal and personal evaluation of the main activities carried out by his institution on this subject, in accordance with the following format:

- a) Institutional thematic priorities at the regional level and their evolution over the past 15 years, and current priorities;
- b) Type of activity carried out (research, action-oriented projects, training, etc.), evaluation, changes and current activities;
- c) Major advances and obstacles in activities concerning the improvement of the situation of women in the region; current status.

Available for discussion will be existing plans and programmes of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, summaries of some of the plans and programmes, and tables showing the main activities under way in accordance with the priorities of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

4. Proposals for activities and priority issues for Latin America and the Caribbean after 1995

Under this agenda item, representatives will consider both general proposals and those which could be adopted by each of the participant organizations after 1995. Subsequently, the proposals could be submitted to the World Conference as representing the position of Latin America and the Caribbean. The debate should focus on three aspects:

- a) Selecting priority activities for Latin America and the Caribbean in general;
- b) Analysing the role of each institution in those activities; and
- c) Considering opportunities for coordination and thematic cooperation, especially in those areas in which more than one organization is working.

In the discussion, the latest recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to regional preparations for the 1995 World Conference should be taken into account. In addition, it will be recalled that the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in September 1994 in Argentina, will serve as a regional preparatory conference for the 1995 World Conference.

5. Measures and mechanisms for coordinating activities relating to women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Under this item, the idea is to propose and examine measures and mechanisms to strengthen coordination of activities relating to women in Latin America and the Caribbean among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially with a view to preparing a regional position for the 1995 World Conference, but also bearing in mind the period following that Conference. Background material for consideration will include the results of the ad hoc inter-agency meetings held annually in Vienna. It should be borne in mind that, in fact, a satisfactory flow of information and ongoing informal relations on this topic already exist, and constitute a good basis for the establishment of somewhat better-consolidated mechanisms. Full advantage should be taken of what could be termed the "grapevine" currently operating among organizations and individuals working in this area, which effectively facilitates their activities.

Notes

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

² 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, November 1991, pp. 40-42.

³ ECLAC, Biennial Report (12 May 1990 - 15 April 1992) (LC/G.1736-P; E/1992/35), Economic and Social Council, Official Records, 1992, Supplement No. 15, Santiago, Chile, 1992.