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**REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES
AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON THE
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 28 November 2011

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mandate

1. The nineteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in compliance with the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action as adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana, Cuba, in 1977, and in accordance with the commitments made at the United Nations inter-agency coordination meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 6 May 1999).

Place and date of the meeting

2. The nineteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 28 November 2011.

Attendance

3. The United Nations Secretariat was represented at the meeting by an official from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The meeting was attended by representatives of the following United Nations funds and programmes: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

4. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following bodies: the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Directorate for Planning and Evaluation of Development Policies of the Government of Spain, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Technical Secretariat for Women of the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMMCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

B. AGENDA

6. The participants adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Presentation by the secretariat of the annual report 2011 of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, “Women’s autonomy: from the margins to the mainstream”.
 3. Report on the Inter-Agency Working Group on Policy Dialogue for Women’s Economic Empowerment.
 4. Other matters.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

7. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) welcomed the participants and recognized the role that SEGIB had played in the creation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. She thanked the organizations for the support provided to the Observatory, in particular SEGIB, which had been involved in dissemination activities carried out in Portugal and Spain, and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Having considered the provisional agenda, the participants adopted it without amendment as the agenda of the meeting.

Presentation by the secretariat of the annual report 2011 of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, “Women’s autonomy: from the margins to the mainstream” (agenda item 2)

8. The annual report for 2011 of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, entitled “Women’s autonomy: from the margins to the mainstream”,¹ was presented at the start of the meeting. It was endorsed by all the participants, who congratulated the secretariat on its work.

9. The SEGIB representative said that the report was an important source of information and provided a regional perspective. It would form the basis for more detailed analysis and was an invaluable tool that must continue to be supported.

10. The FAO representative said that Governments would find the inter-agency report useful and would accept it more readily, given that they preferred documents that had been prepared jointly.

¹ LC/W.436.

11. After expressing her appreciation of the report, the PAHO representative said that the results demonstrated that the Observatory was an increasingly promising tool in the provision of technical assistance. Four of the eight indicators used by PAHO in its work in the Andean region corresponded to Observatory indicators that were relevant to its activities in those countries. In its technical assistance practices, the organization had also taken on board the methodological input concerning the indicator of women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner, in keeping with the organization's strategy of enhancing the quality of vital and health statistics in order to make them more useful and timely for the countries.

12. The representative of UN-Habitat said that the report would be very useful for her organization's Safer Cities Programme and, as mentioned by the representative of UNFPA, it would provide good input for regional reports.

13. After welcoming the information provided, the ILO representative said that the Observatory was a regular and ongoing source of data, consisting of valuable and trustworthy statistics and recognizable indicators, which were vital for organizing work.

14. With regard to developing information on rural women, the representatives of FAO, ILO and IICA highlighted the importance of expanding the production and dissemination of data and said that broadening the Observatory indicators to include rural women would be relevant. The Chief of the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) also emphasized that point. In response, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the number of indicators measured by the Observatory would not be increased, but that steps would be taken to consolidate the demographic and epidemiological elements of country profiles, taking into account rural women, where information was available.

15. The representative of OHCHR reiterated the acknowledgements of the previous speakers and reaffirmed the key influence of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and the Observatory in the work of the Office at both the country and regional levels. Year after year, the reports and publications issued served as points of reference on specific situations and contributed to the dialogue with countries on thematic priorities, including discrimination, poverty, violence and insecurity, impunity and access to justice. There was a need to collaborate on the development of critical human rights and violence indicators, specifically within the framework of the Observatory, in order to make progress on femicide and people trafficking indicators. She highlighted that inter-institutional meetings between the Observatory and the judiciary had resulted in collaboration at the national level.

16. The UNESCO representative underlined the importance of the information produced and said that the data could be tied in with education indicators in order to improve the quality of education.

17. The representative of the secretariat reported on Observatory activities, which included: a total of 14 presentations delivered in four countries of the region in 2011 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay), in conjunction with UNFPA and other organizations; technical assistance in the form of developing a virtual knowledge management system; and direct technical assistance and face-to-face courses on statistics and indicators delivered jointly with other institutions, such as the seminar "Enhancing the capacities of countries in Central America to eradicate violence against women and develop gender statistics", which was organized in conjunction with the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMMCA) in April 2011 and aimed at machineries for the advancement of women, statistics institutes and justice institutions. Horizontal cooperation activities also took place, which offered considerable potential on both the economic and technical fronts

for exploiting the statistical capacities developed by certain countries. Mexico and Ecuador had made progress on satellite accounts, while the Public Prosecutor's Office in Peru had shared its experience of strengthening information systems that provided data on women's deaths from gender-based violence. She also gave an update on the forthcoming study on the status of information on ethnicity and race, which aimed to compile existing data in the United Nations system for subsequent processing.

18. Concerning the future work of the Observatory, funding was available for 2012 but efforts would be required to ensure its long-term sustainability, in order to respond to the challenges presented by the regional and global agenda in terms of data production.

19. The ILO representative reported on the joint project her organization had embarked on in conjunction with UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and ECLAC — a regional report on women's work. The aim was to carry out a new assessment and advance policies that improved working conditions for women in the region.

Report on the Inter-Agency Working Group on Policy Dialogue for Women's Economic Empowerment (agenda item 3)

20. The representative of the secretariat emphasized that a regional priority was to influence economic policy. It reported on the activities of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Policy Dialogue for Women's Economic Empowerment, which was established during the last meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), held in February 2011. The aim was to shine the spotlight on women's economic autonomy by engaging in an ongoing and proactive dialogue with the ministers responsible for macroeconomic policy (that is, ministers of finance, economics, labour, agriculture, and trade and industry) in order to foster their commitment to the gender perspective in all relevant policies. The focus was on women's paid and unpaid work.

21. Since there was considerable overlap between the agenda drawn up by IANWGE and the mandates of the Brasilia Consensus on economic empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Division for Gender Affairs was identifying opportunities at a regional level for raising the profile of that issue and ensuring the adoption of macroeconomic policies that recognized the dimension of unpaid work in the new concept of total work time. It was proposed that information on regional events be shared with a view to drawing up a joint calendar for political advocacy and preparing a series of factsheets aimed at those making decisions on macroeconomic policies, to be used by spokespersons on the subject and directors of the agencies participating in the different forums, to draw attention to the subject. The challenge was to find spokespersons on those subjects, which would involve identifying relevant actors in the economic sphere.

22. The representative of UN-Women, after expressing her gratitude to the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC for the work carried out by the Observatory and for the progress made on economic matters, said that the advancement of women had not kept pace with the region's economic growth, meaning that it was vital to redouble regional efforts in that regard and produce more information on rural women, who were a priority, and on paid domestic workers and migrant women, who were overrepresented among informal workers.

D. ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS

23. The specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system represented at the nineteenth inter-agency meeting agreed as follows:

1. To coordinate with the ECLAC secretariat on the new challenges concerning fulfilment of the Brasilia Consensus and to follow-up on the inter-agency exchange;
2. To respond to the priorities presented by the common agenda, such as the need for information development and studies for policy decision-making, primarily in the area of economic empowerment, paying particular attention to rural women, migrants, paid domestic workers, femicide and human rights, people trafficking, education, and indigenous and Afro-descendent women;
3. To maximize inter-agency cooperation on high-level policy dialogue regarding economic empowerment so as to underscore the technical and political arguments and influence decision-makers;
4. To continue to disseminate information produced by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat****Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

- Lucía Margarita Zambrano, Asesora Regional de Género y Derechos Humanos/Regional Adviser on Gender and Human Rights

**B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies****Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la igualdad entre los Géneros y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)**

- Gladys Acosta, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

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

- Ana Elena Badilla, Asesora Regional en Género/Regional Gender Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Carmen de la Cruz, Responsable, Área de Práctica de Género del Centro Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Gender Practice Policy Specialist, Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

- Diana Medina de la Hoz, Punto Focal de Género, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Gender Focal Point, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

**C. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies****Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Solange Sanches do Prado, Especialista en género y políticas sociales, OIT

Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- José Antonio Pages, Representante Interino de la OPS/OMS en Chile
- Lilia Magdalena Jara, Asesora en Género y Salud/Gender and Health Advisor

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- María Victoria Valenzuela, Consultora en VIH/SIDA

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

- Soledad Parada, Consultora en Género/Gender Consultant
- Cristina P. Rentería Garita, Junior Professional Officer

**D. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales
Other intergovernmental organizations**

Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB)

- Beatriz Morán Márquez, Directora, División de Asuntos Sociales

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Fátima Almada, Especialista en Agricultura, Territorios y Bienestar Rural

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)/Central American Integration System

- Miosotis Rivas Peña, Secretaria Técnica de la Mujer, Consejo de Ministras de la Mujer de Centroamérica (COMMCA/SICA)

**E. Otros
Others**

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)/Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

- Beatriz Lorenzo, Punto Focal de Género, Oficina Técnica de Cooperación AECID-Chile/Gender Focal Point
- Ana López, Coordinadora del programa CEPAL-AECID/Coordinator ECLAC-AECID Programme

**F. Secretaría
Secretariat**

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

- Sonia Montaña, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs
- Pamela Villalobos, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Lucía Scuro, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Ana Ferigra-Stefanovic, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Alejandra Valdés, Asistente de Programa, División de Asuntos de Género/Programme Assistant, Division for Gender Affairs
- Alin Agustin, Consultora, División de Asuntos de Género/Consultant, Division for Gender Affairs