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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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Caribbean technical meeting on the  
Beijing + 20 review and appraisal  
of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  
14-15 November 2014  
Santiago, Chile

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**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN TECHNICAL MEETING ON THE  
BEIJING + 20 REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE 1995 BEIJING  
DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

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## **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The international community will in 2015 celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its collective commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as articulated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). During the past twenty years, the BPfA has substantially raised awareness and mobilized significant global social and political support to end discrimination against and promote the welfare of women.

2. This twentieth anniversary provides the Caribbean, as well as the rest of the global community “with new opportunities to regenerate commitment, charge up political will and mobilize the public to assess progress brought about by the BPfA”.<sup>1</sup> Many of the goals and objectives of the BPfA remain highly relevant to the Caribbean and continued efforts and progress will be required to fully implement the platform.

3. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was mandated by the Economic and Social Council, resolution E/RES/2013/18 to provide support in the follow-up process to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". In this context, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) supported Caribbean countries in the preparation of national progress reports. These reports informed the preparation of a Caribbean synthesis review and appraisal report, which was presented at this Caribbean technical meeting.

4. The meeting provided a forum for dialogue to assess progress and to consider recommendations with a view to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Caribbean technical meeting on Beijing + 20 was also seen as an opportunity to further shape the post-2015 development agenda by ensuring that relevant women, gender equality and development concerns have a central place in this agenda.

5. The meeting was jointly sponsored by ECLAC, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

## **B. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **1. Place and date**

6. The Caribbean technical meeting on the Beijing + 20 review and appraisal was held from 14 to 15 November 2014 in Santiago, Chile.

### **2. Attendance**

7. Representatives of nine Member States attended the meeting, namely Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. Two Associate Members were represented: the Cayman Islands and Curaçao. Representatives of the following specialized agencies attended: International Labour Organization (ILO). Representatives of the following programmes and funds attended: the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Entity for Gender

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<sup>1</sup> UN-Women (2014) The Beijing Platform for Action: Inspiration Then and Now <http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about>.

Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Representatives from seven Caribbean non-governmental organizations also attended.

### **3. Programme**

8. The programme adopted by the meeting is attached as annex III.

## **C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

9. At the opening session, statements were made by the Coordinator of the Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the Representative of the Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean of UN-Women, the Director of the Subregional Office for the Caribbean of UNFPA, the Hon. Ramonita Garcia, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Women, Dominican Republic and Sonia Montano, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

10. The Coordinator of the Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean stated that the review process of the Beijing + 20, that was led by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, revealed a challenging policy environment for the Caribbean region. It was noted that while there had been noticeable progress and achievements in the subregion, this progress has been uneven. A number of gaps and challenges remain in Caribbean pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment.

11. The Representative of the Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean of UN-Women referred to the contradiction between the significant gains made since Beijing in normative standards, including legislation prohibiting discrimination and protecting women from violence, and the realities that women actually face in the labour market and some social situations.

12. The Caribbean continues to record some of the highest figures in adolescent pregnancy. Indeed, as a result of this, CARICOM has recently established a strategy to tackle teenage pregnancy, which addresses major gender stereotypes in the subregion. The UN-Women representative underscored that one of the greatest challenges for the Caribbean is dealing with stereotypes, and it was essential that the unique Caribbean perspective be presented in the outcome of the review process.

13. The Director of UNFPA, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, stated that it was important to seize the opportunity to ensure that the core messages coming out of the reviews of the Platform for Action of Beijing and the International Conference on Population and Development were fully implemented. Advancing a radical post-2015 development agenda required all to work in a holistic and coherent way to chart a path to collective sustainability through the fulfilment of individual rights.

14. She further suggested that the opportunity presented by this current review process to discuss how to strengthen gender equality within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, should be seized to make sure all stakeholders are on the same page and engaged in going forward. In this connection, she noted that the outcomes of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development held in 2013 and 2014, had shown evidence of some pushback in terms of gender equality; a matter of some concern. She emphasized that ensuring a global partnership for development underpinned the success of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 and assured the meeting that UNFPA stood ready to work with all stakeholders to make this a reality.

15. The Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Women of the Dominican Republic conveyed greetings from the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and drew attention to the need to work together to define strategies to make further progress in view of the major challenges ahead. She highlighted the importance of analyzing the role and contribution of the United Nations and of non-governmental organizations in achieving gender equality in the Latin American and Caribbean region. She expressed the view that conclusions of this technical meeting should serve as essential inputs towards ensuring that women in the Caribbean could achieve gender equality and have a decent life free of violence. The Vice-Minister also pointed out that not only women but societies as a whole stood to benefit from gender equality.

16. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC conveyed greetings from the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and emphasized the meeting's importance for transmitting the Caribbean perspective as an important input for the agreements to be adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women at their fifty-first meeting. In that regard, she noted that it would be wonderful if a Caribbean Government offered to host the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference, which would in principle be held in 2019.

17. She noted that in view of the progress made in the past two decades on constitutions and legal frameworks, what is needed now is greater focus on implementation. In this regard, the reviews undertaken signalled that many of the challenges to implementation over the past 20 years were mainly due to a lack of political will. Many national reports from the Caribbean referred to the need to change cultures and stereotypes that partly explain gender inequality. The reports also showed that women's employment and pay are not commensurate with their gains in education: society and enterprise are not prepared to take advantage of the investments made in women's education. She suggested that it was time to make the linkages between sectors and put forward an intersectoral development agenda. She also commended the role played by civil society in bringing attention to issues which would have been difficult to raise decades ago. She also underscored the need to improve statistical data for the Caribbean.

## **2. Session 1: Overview of progress with implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: The Caribbean experience**

18. The ECLAC consultant gave an overview of the report prepared, with data from 10 countries, on the Caribbean experience with the implementation of Beijing Programme of Action in the 12 themes identified for review. The objectives of the report were to identify achievements and challenges, to synthesize the vision of the Caribbean and to provide recommendations.

19. The main areas of progress were new legislation, more representation of women in government, albeit uneven, steady and consistent management of gender affairs, higher labour force participation of women in some countries, although with sharp gender differentials in favour of males, and measurable improvement in women and health.

20. The challenges were many and included the persistence of the wage gap, an intensification of gender-based violence, constraints in resource capacity, limited advancement in gender planning systems in public sectors, worrying rates of maternal and newborn mortality in some countries, and a lack of sex-disaggregated data. The report had found, overall, an alarming vulnerability of the girl child in many areas.

21. Moving forward, it was necessary to tackle strategic gaps, including poverty, gender-based violence, and the vulnerability of the girl child, by building on the achievements made, seeking a regional strategy to glue together the various country strengths and achieve the critical mass required for a more

sustainable impact. Lastly, a subregional strategic planning exercise would be required to bring together the key elements to advance the change process.

22. The representatives of the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao and the Dominican Republic reported on progress made towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The speakers outlined the steps that had been taken to address each area of concern under the Beijing Platform for Action, emphasizing the areas where major achievements had been made, such as education, and those in which more needed to be done, as in respect of violence against women. Poverty alleviation initiatives reflected the disproportionate burden shouldered by women and gender mainstreaming efforts were being made, but needed to be institutionalized in order to ensure sustained progress. Insufficient data were being produced in the region on gender indicators and it was crucial to present any data that were available in a way that could be easily understood by the public and used to shape policy.

23. In the discussion on this agenda item, several participants echoed the concern of the presenters regarding the challenges and problems associated with the lack of data and highlighted the need for standardized methods to gather comparable data. It was also felt that poverty measurements should take into consideration variables other than income. The emphasis on the girl child in the presentations was lauded. Efforts being made on various fronts to reduce adolescent pregnancy rates were noted. The meeting acknowledged that an advocacy strategy is needed to bring to public attention the research being conducted on the situation of the girl child. It is vital that the mandates of national women's machineries should not be allowed to erode as a result of under-resourcing and that their status should be defended in order to continue moving forward on key issues.

### **3. Session 2: Continuing challenges and emerging issues for the Caribbean in realizing gender equality and women's empowerment**

24. The coordinator of the Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean gave a presentation indicating several challenges for the subregion, including the fact that women's educational attainment was not translating into employment or income and that care responsibilities often left women with no time to participate in the formal labour market. There was limited recognition of women's extremely valuable contribution to society through unpaid work and only sporadic advances had been made in women's participation in decision-making. A combination of biological and social factors combined with gender-based inequalities made women more vulnerable to a number of illnesses, including certain non-communicable diseases that were often linked to poverty. Gender-based violence is an intractable problem in the subregion, with high rates of rape and domestic violence. She emphasized that data collection is critical in the Caribbean as a basic requirement for planning and policy formation and for monitoring impact. She also noted that there are too many gaps in the data and only recently progress has been made towards the definition of international quantitative and qualitative indicators.

25. In the discussion that followed, the speakers emphasized the importance of presenting data in a user-friendly manner. It was not just a matter of collecting and disaggregating data, but also of analyzing and using it. Rather than waiting for systems to change, which could take a long time, data could be gathered using spot surveys or other interventions. The contribution of rural women to the economy and to food security is one area in which there is a paucity of data. Many of the problems affecting women also tended to impact rural women the hardest. The importance of linking incidence of non-communicable diseases with food security was discussed. Recognition was also given to food production as a gender issue. With regard to women's involvement in decision-making, most of the systems of government in the subregion do not allow for a quota system, yet other measures could be put in place to facilitate women's participation, such as the provision of crèche services and lobbying of individual parties to secure their commitment to boosting female representation. The connection between poverty

and mental health issues was highlighted, with reference to the importance of women's self-perception of their well-being. Participants emphasized that sexual and reproductive rights should remain non-negotiable and that it was important not to let the progress that has been made be reversed.

#### **4. Session 3. Consideration of strategies to advance the Caribbean with respect to the ongoing implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: The way forward**

26. The Acting Director for Policy and Research of the Bureau for Gender Affairs of Jamaica delivered a presentation on strategies in Jamaica used to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. She emphasized the importance of developing a clear vision, with a robust national policy on gender and the mechanisms for implementation. To facilitate this, partnerships were needed: in Jamaica's case, support had been received from ECLAC and UN-Women. It was essential to identify strategic priority areas, which Jamaica had done on the basis of four principles: gender equality and social justice, political will, multisectoral approaches and partnerships, and participatory approaches. The next step was the development of indicators and protocols, a process still ongoing in Jamaica. She suggested crucial strategies which included the use of participatory techniques and methodologies, development of policy with key stakeholders and the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), awareness-raising and public education through advocacy tools, and the use of training and discussion groups.

27. The NGO Representative of the UN-Women Caribbean Civil Society Advisory Group delivered a presentation in which she made some general recommendations for advancing the Beijing agenda after its adoption. She commended the boldness of the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality in the post-2015 and SIDS agenda. She also underscored and supported the proposal of the representative of Jamaica regarding the more integral use of NGO support. She further suggested that it was time for CARICOM to develop a new civic charter with more reference to women's rights and gender equality. There should also be the adoption of a Caribbean environmental protection treaty, taking into account the vulnerability of precious natural resources to global warming and climate change, with monitored targets. She further indicated that a strong proposal on gender budgeting would be a desirable outcome of the present meeting. In this regard, ECLAC could assist with devising an appropriate model for the Caribbean subregion, as well as with improving systems for data collection. She recommended gender training for members of parliament and a parliamentary caucus to promote decision makers' use of their influence to ensure that laws and policies on paper actually work and make a real difference. Finally, she strongly recommended that countries sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

28. In the discussion that followed, the participants agreed that the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality in the post-2015 and SIDS agenda was a very useful reference point. With regard to the idea of a parliamentary caucus, it was clear that it would be beneficial to support parliamentary women post-election in order to enable legislators to work to their fullest and begin to close gaps, perhaps through some mechanism along the lines of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians. With regard to gender-based violence, it was suggested that a more proactive approach was needed, for example through employer notification.

#### **5. Session 4: Plenary session on gender equality programming in the Caribbean in the context of the post-2015 and SIDS development agenda**

29. The representative of UN-Women gave a presentation on gender equality in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and highlighted the need to focus on women's capabilities, leadership and freedom from violence. She also described some of the provisions of existing international instruments and called attention to the gender-equality components of the proposed sustainable development goals.

She underscored the need for continued progress beyond the provisions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

30. In the discussion that followed, the representatives emphasized that responsibility for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda had to be shared between developed and developing countries, and that Governments had to take ownership of the agenda and its implementation.

31. It was noted that the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development represented a major step forward in terms of ensuring the right to sexual and reproductive health care, and it was clarified that the definition of sexual and reproductive rights was that set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action. In addition, while it was acknowledged that national laws took precedence, it was suggested that Governments should be open to considering whether they optimally served the needs of their citizens and to amending them where necessary. In this connection, it was recalled that human rights are universal and inalienable, and concerns were voiced at the lack of progress, including the possible removal or denial of rights in some countries.

#### **6. Session 5: Plenary session to approve the Caribbean Statement on the Beijing + 20 review**

32. Under this agenda item, the participants discussed and adopted the Caribbean Statement to be presented to the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at their fifty-first meeting (see annex I).

#### **7. Closure of the meeting**

33. Concluding statements were made by the Coordinator of the Social Development Unit of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, the Representative of the Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean of UN-Women, the Director of the Subregional Office for the Caribbean of UNFPA, and the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

Annex I**CARIBBEAN STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT THEIR FIFTY-FIRST MEETING**

*We, the Ministers and high-level authorities of the Caribbean member States and associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), gathered together in Santiago from 14 to 15 November 2014, at the invitation of ECLAC and with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the subregional office for the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in a Caribbean technical meeting on the Beijing+20 review and appraisal for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, preparatory to the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,*

*Welcoming* the findings and conclusions of the Caribbean review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the recommendations for the further implementation of the Platform for Action beyond 2014,

*Acknowledging* the progress made in the establishment of institutional mechanisms, allocation of resources, budgets, policy development and programming regarding implementation of all areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and the strategic objectives and actions set forth at the Fourth World Conference on Women,

*Recognizing* that there is unevenness and gaps in the progress made towards achieving the goals and strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and that considerable challenges still exist in the implementation of its different areas,

*Emphasizing* the continuing relevance and importance of the goals and objectives of the Platform for Action and the strategic objectives and actions for achieving inclusive social development, inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and peace and security,

*Considering* that, at its fifty-ninth session, to be held in 2015, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective,

*Acknowledging* that poverty is one of the greatest challenges facing women in the Caribbean today, characterized by economic and social deprivation and the inability to enjoy a decent livelihood, and that there is thus an urgent need to support poverty reduction through macroeconomic reforms which reduce the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women and other vulnerable groups, including adolescent mothers, female heads of households, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, domestic workers, migrants and rural women in particular,

*Considering also* that women's empowerment is essential to guaranteeing the exercise of their rights in a context of full equality and, in particular, control over their own bodies, comprehensive health care and the right to live a life free from violence,

*Considering further* that women's ability to participate in the labour force to generate their own income and resources and their full participation in decisions that affect their lives and their community are fundamental to achieving greater gender equality and women's empowerment, for the betterment of societies,

*Recognizing* that for gender equality and the empowerment of women to be achieved, the disproportionate share of unpaid care work must cease to be a barrier to women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights and participation in social, political and economic life,

*Recognizing also* that gender-based violence is endemic in the Caribbean, and that violence against women and girls because they are women and girls is unacceptable, and reaffirming the principle that freedom from violence for all is an inalienable human right, requiring full State action; and that the response to violence is a responsibility shared among the State, individuals, families and communities,

*Emphasizing*, therefore, that it is essential to recognize and promote the critical role of prevention as a systemic response aimed at eliminating violence at all levels of society, including through public education campaigns for prevention and universal access to critical services, including sexual and reproductive health services and through information, rehabilitation, legislation and access to justice and remedies for all victims and survivors; to criminalize sexual violence against all persons as a pervasive form of gender-based violence; to end impunity of perpetrators; and to eliminate sexual harassment and violence at home and in schools, workplaces and other public and cyber spaces,

*Recognizing* the serious situation that girls and adolescent girls face, including their high level of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, high rates of adolescent pregnancy, harmful practices against girls including early sexual initiation, early and forced marriage and transactional sex, trafficking in persons, limited access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, sexual violence and abuse, discrimination, stereotypes and violence in school, poverty and economic insecurity,

*Considering* the threat of non-communicable diseases and their unacceptably high prevalence, and the morbidity and mortality associated with non-communicable diseases among Caribbean women, as well as the attendant burden on social and economic development and families, and the need to put in place public policies and programmes as a matter of urgency to educate and encourage the adoption of lifestyle changes to promote a state of physical, mental and social well-being,

*Recognizing* that women's organizations and movements are critical agents of change, and that men and women alike make an essential contribution in transforming and mobilizing society and in informing, educating and advocating for social, economic, political and cultural change grounded in the democratic principles of autonomy, equality of rights and women's empowerment,

*Reaffirming* the commitments States have assumed to international instruments for the protection of the human rights of women and girls under the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), and the recommendations formulated by their oversight agencies; and the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (Rio de Janeiro, 2012); the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway); and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), and their outcome documents,

*Reaffirming also* our commitment to the implementation of the agreements set forth in the consensus reached at successive sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), in the Montevideo Consensus adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (2013), and in the Caribbean Joint Statement on Gender Equality in the Post-2015 and SIDS Agenda,

*Affirming* that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be a priority in the post-2015 development agenda, and a stand-alone goal, including within sustainable human development, and that these aims should be mainstreamed with commitments across the range of social, cultural, economic, civil and political rights, and that emphasis should be placed on ensuring equal rights for women and girls to education, health, economic opportunities, access to justice and decision-making in public and private life, and freedom from violence,

*Reiterating* that the post-2015 development agenda must strengthen institutions and endow them with the necessary capacity and resources to ensure real integration of gender equality issues through more effective governance and greater accountability, in order to bring about transformative change for women and girls,

*Agree to the following recommendations as part of the vision of the Caribbean and the promotion of the human rights of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality:*

1. *Emphasize* the need for States to strengthen the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and related outcome documents, ensuring that the requisite resources, technical support and assistance are provided to Governments, including national machineries for gender equality and women's empowerment, through gender-responsive budgeting; and that these agreements guide the further strengthening, adoption and monitored implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable human development;
2. *Call upon* States to ensure the right to decent work as defined by the International Labour Organization for all women, especially young, rural and indigenous women and domestic workers, and in so doing, to uphold the rights of young women and men at work, including the right to fair hiring, and to join and organize labour unions, consistent with international conventions, with a view to ensuring higher levels of social, economic and human development;
3. *Ensure* the fulfilment of women's inalienable rights to participation and voice at all levels of decision-making, given that the Caribbean has one of the lowest rates of women in politics and, recalling global commitments to this end, call upon States Members of the United Nations to encourage and enable a critical mass of gender-sensitive transformational leaders and youth leaders in all aspects of decision-making, addressing in the process persistent cultural, social, economic and politically entrenched barriers to women's leadership;
4. *Ensure also* that States have the necessary nationally-owned sex and age-disaggregated data to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the emerging post-2015 development agenda, given the need for timely, good-quality data that is integrated with related national and regional data collection entities, emphasizing, as a matter of priority for the Caribbean, the systemic generation of administrative and prevalence data on gender-based violence, which must be disaggregated by sex, age and relationship to perpetrator;

5. *Encourage* and facilitate dialogue and measures between Government and the private sector for food production and quality assurance and the widespread distribution of locally produced agricultural and agro-processed goods; and for assurance of food security;
6. *Commit* to review the impact of strategies aimed at ending gender-based violence, recognizing the culture of impunity around acts of gender-based violence, and to take all necessary measures to put an end to gender-based violence;
7. *Design*, as a matter of urgency, strategies to ensure that girls' and adolescent girls' rights are promoted, respected, protected and fulfilled, including comprehensive, age-sensitive, context-specific sexual and reproductive health information, and strategies to empower girls, prevent adolescent pregnancy, ensure that pregnant adolescent girls and mothers remain in school, fight all types of gender inequalities, including harmful practices, incest, violence at school, in the community, and sexual violence and abuse;
8. *Agree* to implement the integrated strategic framework for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy in the region, which was adopted by the by Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) of the Caribbean Community in June 2014;
9. *Ensure* that national programmes and policies, including gender management systems geared towards strengthening health systems for the achievement of universal health-care coverage, are developed and implemented, particularly in relation to communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health;
10. *Ensure* full implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development adopted in 2013 at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the provision of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unacceptable pregnancies in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under the relevant national legislation; urge States to consider amending their laws, regulations, strategies and public policies relating to the voluntary termination of pregnancy in order to protect the lives and health of women and adolescent girls, to improve their quality of life and to reduce the number of abortions; ensure that all women have effective access to comprehensive health care during the reproductive process and specifically to skilled, institutional, compassionate obstetric care and to the best possible maternal health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, as well as to services that include the termination of pregnancy in those cases where the law provides for such services, and guarantee universal access to assisted fertility treatments;
11. *Promote* the full and gender-responsive implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) and the post-2015 development agenda in support of sustainable development and, in particular, provide for gender-sensitive public education and action on food and nutrition, with a view to transforming consumption practices and addressing increasing challenges;
12. *Create* access to financing and investment opportunities to improve women's resilience to economic challenges, natural hazards and climate change;
13. *Support* gender-responsive and equitable trade policies which address the inequalities between developed and developing countries, having at their core sustainable development principles and the challenges and rights of women;

14. *Ensure* that highly-indebted, middle-income States have access to a non-restrictive aid framework, recognizing that women are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts on development outcomes as a result of the global recession, a high debt-service burden, the tight fiscal space of several Governments in the region, and structural adjustment programmes;
15. *Ensure also* that policy responses to the economic crisis include eco-friendly recovery packages that will promote sustainable growth, with significant and equitable environmental benefits for both women and men;
16. *Support* the preservation and valuation of traditional knowledge and technologies, ownership of lands and cultural assets, and the protection of intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples, especially women.

Annex II

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Member States**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Representative:

- Valarie Williams, Executive Director, Directorate of Gender Affairs

**BAHAMAS**

Representative:

- Hon. Melanie Griffin, Minister, Bureau of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development

Delegation member:

- Christine Campbell, First Assistant Secretary and Officer-in-Charge, Bureau of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development

**BARBADOS**

Representative:

- Mildred Hunte, Acting Director, Bureau of Gender Affairs

**CUBA**

Representative:

- Teresa María Amarelle Boué, Secretary General, Federation of Cuban Women

Delegation member:

- Yanira Victoria Kuper Herrera, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Federation of Cuban Women

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Representative:

- Ramonita Garcia, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Women's Affairs

**GUYANA**

Representative:

- Dinte Conway, Head, Special Projects and Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

**JAMAICA**

Representative:

- Sharon Robinson, Acting Director, Policy and Research, Bureau of Women's / Gender Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Representative:

- Polly Olliver, Coordinator, Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of National Mobilization

**SURINAME**

Representative:

- Mireille Ngadimin, Head Staff Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs

**B. Associate members**

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

Representative:

- Aubrey Bodden, Policy Officer, Ministry of Education, Employment and Gender Affairs

**CURAÇAO**

Representative:

- Hon. Ruthmilda Larmonie-Cecilia, Minister, Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Welfare

Delegation member:

- Jeanette Juliet-Pablo, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Welfare
- Zandra Vos, Policy Adviser, Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Welfare

**C. United Nations Programmes and Funds**

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- Sheila Roseau, Director, UNFPA subregional Office in Jamaica

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

- Luz Melo, Adviser, Gender and Non-discrimination, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)**

- Christine Arab, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean

**D. Specialized Agencies**

**International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Linda Deelen, Officer-in-Charge, Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America
- Carlos Rodríguez, *Specialist, Workers' Activities*, Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America

**E. Civil society organization**

**UN-Women Caribbean Advisory Committee, Guyana**

- Vanda Radzik-Sochaki, Independent Civil Society Representative

## **F. Non-governmental organizations**

### **Latin America and the Caribbean Committee of Non-governmental Organizations and Commission on the Status of Women**

- Delores Robinson, Vice-President

### **Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers**

- Mildred Crawford, President

### **Grenada National Organization of Women**

- Jacqueline Pascal, Project Coordinator

### **National Family Planning Board – Jamaica**

- Denise Chevannes-Vogel, Executive Director

### **National Organization of Women – Barbados**

- Marilyn Rice-Bowen, President

### **Sistren Theatre Collective/ Groots Jamaica**

- Lana Finikin, Executive Director

## **G. Secretariat**

### **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

- Sonia Montano, Chief, Division of Gender Affairs
- Jimena Arias, Social Affairs Officer, Division of Gender Affairs
- Pamela Villalobos, Social Affairs Officer, Division of Gender Affairs

### **ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean**

- Sheila Stuart, Coordinator, Social Development Unit
- Alicia Mondesire, Consultant

Annex III**PROGRAMME****Friday 14 November 2014**

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Opening of the meeting**
- Welcome Remarks by Sheila Stuart, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Remarks by Christine Arab, Representative, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) Multi-Country Office - Caribbean
- Remarks by Sheila Roseau, Director, Subregional Office for the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Remarks by Ramonita García, Vice minister, Ministry of the Women, Dominican Republic.
- Message from Sonia Montano, Director, Division for Gender Affairs, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- 9.30 a.m. – 9.45 a.m. Adoption of the agenda
- 9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m. **Session 1: Overview of progress with the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: The Caribbean experience**
- Chairperson:** Sheila Stuart, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Presenter:** Alicia Mondesire, ECLAC Consultant
- 10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. *Coffee break*
- 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. **Continuation of session 1**
- Reports from selected national machineries for gender equality in the Caribbean: The Bahamas and the Cayman Islands
- 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **Session 2: Continuing challenges and emerging issues for the Caribbean in realizing gender equality and women's empowerment**
- Chairperson:** Valarie Williams, Executive Director, Directorate of Gender Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda
- Presenter:** Sheila Stuart, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- 12.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. *Lunch*
- 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. **Session 3: Consideration of strategies to advance the Caribbean with respect to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: The way forward**
- Chairperson:** Mireille Ngadimin, Head Staff Officer, National Bureau for Gender Policy, Suriname
- Presenters:** Sharon Coburn Robinson, Acting Director, Policy and Research, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Jamaica (TBC)
- Vanda Radzik, Guyana Representative on the UN-Women Caribbean Civil Society Advisory Group - nominated by Red Thread Women's NGO in Guyana
- 3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. **Session 4: Presentation of draft Caribbean statement to be presented to the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the LAC Conference on Women**
- Chairperson:** Sheila Roseau, Director, UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- Presentation of draft:** Sheila Stuart, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

#### **Saturday 15 November 2014**

- 9.30 a.m. – 10.15 a.m. **Session 5: Plenary session on gender equality programming in the Caribbean in the context of the post-2015 and SIDS development agenda**
- Chairperson:** Ms. Polly Olliver, Coordinator, Gender Affairs Division, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Presenter:** Christine Arab, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean
- 10.15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. *Coffee break*
- 11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **Session 6: Plenary session to approve the Caribbean Statement on the Beijing + 20 review**
- Chairperson:** Sharon Coburn Robinson, Acting Director, Policy and Research, Bureau of Gender Affairs, Jamaica
- 12.30 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. **Closure of the meeting**
- Sheila Roseau: Director, UNFPA Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- Christine Arab, Representative, UN-Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- Sheila Stuart, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean