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FOR LATIN AMERICA
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Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the
Integration of Women into the Economic and Social
Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

Fourteenth meeting
Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 18 and 19 June 1992

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS

1. Mandate and functions of the Presiding Officers

The meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean are held pursuant to the mandate contained in the Regional Plan of Action.¹ In accordance with subparagraph 2 of paragraph 88 of the Plan, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference serve as a link between member Governments and the ECLAC secretariat in the field of women's integration in development.

The following Presiding Officers were elected at the fifth session of the Regional Conference:

Chairman: Netherlands Antilles

Vice-Chairmen: Chile
Cuba
Guatemala
Mexico
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Venezuela

Rapporteur: Argentina

It was agreed, pursuant to the same subparagraph of the Regional Plan of Action, that the current Presiding Officers should continue in their functions until new ones are appointed.

At its fifth session, the Regional Conference adopted a proposal concerning additional functions to be carried out by future Presiding Officers, namely:

- "a) To follow up on the issues treated by the Conference, studying them more deeply and trying to heighten awareness and bring about a consensus with respect to them among government officials and non-governmental women's organizations, as preparation for the following Conference and as orientation for the substantive work in the countries.
- "b) To promote a broader and more valuable participation in the following Regional Conference, through permanent contact with specific focal points and with government and key non-governmental agencies. Individual Presiding Officers could divide up the countries of the region among themselves, determining where the action of each one could be the most effective in this promotional task.

- "c) To function as a counterpart of the secretariat of ECLAC in identifying issues to be treated and projects of interest to the countries, as well as in systematizing the information concerning these issues found in the countries. To dedicate part of their meetings to a previously selected substantive issue, in order to help further the discussion of that issue from a regional perspective.
- "d) To improve the coordination of tasks with the other agencies working on women's issues. Each member country of the Presiding Officers could do so within its area of regional action.
- "e) To contribute to a better preparation of regional participation within the world-level international agencies concerned with women's issues.
- "f) To make recommendations, by means of a communication from the Presiding Officers to the following Regional Conference, concerning the issues that the Presiding Officers think should be treated at that Conference."

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The following provisional agenda will be submitted to the Presiding Officers for adoption. In addition, in accordance with informal agreements reached at previous meetings, one working day is to be devoted to informative, operational and technical aspects and the other to substantive work.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report on activities from 1 June 1991 to 31 May 1992
 - Report of the Chairman of the Presiding Officers
 - Report of the Presiding Officers
 - Report on secretariat activities
3. Analysis of the resolutions 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
4. Group of experts for the preparation of a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into Latin American and Caribbean economic and social development
5. Fifteenth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Other matters.

2. Report on activities from 1 June 1991 to 31 May 1992

The various reports to be prepared on this subject will include a document to be presented by the secretariat that will deal with relevant topics considered at the fifth session of the Regional Conference, at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and at the twenty-fourth session of ECLAC.

3. Analysis of the resolutions 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

The fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC pursuant to ECLAC resolution 509(XXIII), was held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, from 16 to 19 September 1991.

Representatives of the following States members of the Commission participated in the session: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Also represented were the following associate members of ECLAC: Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles and Puerto Rico.

The Conference assessed the region's progress with respect to the integration of women, analysed the new ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity and, as part of the preparations for the sixth session of the Regional Conference, accepted Argentina's offer to host that session in 1994.

The Conference concluded that it was urgent to continue to promote women's issues in the region and to support national activities to improve their situation. To that end, account must be taken of the specific characteristics of the relevant subregions, especially the Caribbean subregion.

In order to implement its conclusions, the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

- a) New regional plan of action on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean
- b) Women and human resources
- c) Women and politics
- d) Women and violence
- e) Cooperation, collaboration and networking

The secretariat will report to the Presiding Officers on the extent to which the resolutions adopted have been implemented.

4. Group of experts for the preparation of a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into Latin American and Caribbean economic and social development

At its fifth session, the Regional Conference adopted a resolution in which it requested that a meeting of experts be convened to initiate the preparation of a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into Latin American and Caribbean economic and social development.²

The secretariat will submit to the Presiding Officers for their consideration a summary of the plans of action and programmes on women of other bodies of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental bodies. Moreover, an analysis will be carried out to determine the appropriate methodology for preparing the new plan prior to the sixth session of the Regional Conference.

5. Fifteenth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Presiding Officers will determine the date and place of their fifteenth meeting. They will also consider the possibility of holding the first meeting of experts immediately after the meeting of the Presiding Officers in order that those Presiding Officers who so desire may attend that meeting.

6. Other matters

The fourteenth meeting of the Presiding Officers would be an opportune occasion for them to embark upon the preparations for 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 Argentina in 1994. This session will be of particular importance in view of the resolutions adopted at the latest session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which give the highest priority to regional preparations for ensuring the success of the world conference to be held in Beijing, China, in 1995.

A primary consideration in the preparations for the sixth session is the need to develop a regional position on the topic. It would therefore be appropriate to prepare a provisional agenda for that session.

Notes

¹ See the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1), November 1977, paragraphs 87 and 88.

² NEW REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN
INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

Considering that concern for the situation of women on the part of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was demonstrated in the early 1970s by the special effort it made to link this topic with the economic, social, cultural and political aspects of development, and that this concern took the concrete form of the Regional Plan of Action adopted by the Governments of the region at the First Regional Conference, held in Havana, Cuba, in 1977, and by the eleventh extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC the same year,

Taking into account that the changes experienced by the region since then have been radical ones, requiring an analysis of the future from a new perspective, including a reorientation of concepts and programmes relating to women,

Recalling that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its resolution 507(XXIII), adopted at its twenty-third session, received with appreciation the document prepared by the secretariat entitled Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity (LC/G.1601-P),

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 45/129 on implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, especially its paragraphs 4 and 8,

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 on the world conference on women to be held in 1995; resolution 1990/14 on action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; and resolution 1990/15 on recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies,

Taking into account the Declaration of the First Ibero-American Summit of July 1991 on national, regional and international mechanisms for women,

Recalling the Declaration of the Meeting of Central American Ministers of Labour, held in Guatemala,

Recalling resolution 513(XXIII), adopted at the twenty-third session of ECLAC, on the role of women in economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. Welcomes with satisfaction the ECLAC document entitled "Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: The challenge of changing production patterns with social equity" (LC/L.627(CRM.5/4)),

together with the comments placed on record in the report, and the other documents prepared for the Fifth Regional Conference, which represent an important contribution to the analysis of the situation of women in the Latin American and Caribbean scenario of the 1990s and the actions necessary to increase their integration;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to convene a meeting of experts to initiate no later than the first half of 1992 the preparation of a new regional plan of action on the integration of women into Latin American and Caribbean economic and social development with the aim of submitting it for consideration by the Governments of the region at the Sixth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women, as a new regional instrument in preparation for the forthcoming world conference in 1995;

3. Decides to recommend to the group of experts that they should:

- a) Take into account the priority topics identified in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, especially with respect to education, literacy, employment, health and social well-being; take into account as well the topics involved in human resources development; research in the different fields relating to the changing role of women in today's society; technical assistance to achieve the incorporation of women into changing production patterns, in particular with regard to relevant technological advances in which women have not participated sufficiently or equitably; political education of women, including their political participation in electoral processes; and the need for cooperation among countries at the national and regional levels on programmes and projects, especially those relating to employment;
- b) Consider the adoption of concrete measures for action at the national, regional and international levels in regard to the struggle against poverty, the problem of violence against women in the family and society and strengthening the role of women in the protection of the environment;
- c) Provide for the essential coordination of intergovernmental bodies in relation to national and regional programmes for the advancement of women;
- d) Ensure the incorporation of women's issues and gender issues into all the development proposals of the new regional plan of action and strategies for the integration of women;
- e) Seek to prevent social and economic regression in the status of women and, to that end, adopt a gender-based approach which takes into account the strategic and practical needs of women in recognition of the severe social and economic impact of structural adjustment measures on the situation of women;
- f) Consider the complex combination of social, economic and cultural contributions of women in everyday life and the mutual effects of these separate contributions;

4. Urges the Governments of the States members of ECLAC to strengthen their national mechanisms for the advancement of women, to position them at a high decision-making level and to integrate them into the political, economic and social planning processes of their countries;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that ECLAC has sufficient resources, within the overall budgetary ceiling, to carry out its work on women's issues;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to ensure that the programme of work of the ECLAC Women and Development Unit includes the following topics: human resources, research on the changing role of women in today's society, technical assistance for the incorporation of women into changing production patterns, and national and regional cooperation on programmes and projects, especially in the area of employment;

7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to submit the reports of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women, including its resolutions and recommendations, to the sessions of ECLAC on a regular basis.