

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.511 (MDM.9/2)
28 August 1989
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Ninth 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

Panajachel, Guatemala, 26 and 27 September 1989

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The fourth meeting (Quito, March 1981) reviewed the resolutions of the Second Regional Conference (Macuto, Venezuela, November 1979) and the resolutions and recommendations of the World Conference (Copenhagen, 1980) with a view to preparing a document containing proposals for the inclusion of the topic of women in the regional programme of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

The fifth meeting (Mexico City, August 1983) considered the documentation and organizational aspects of the Third Regional Conference and activities in preparation for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1985. It also recommended the following criteria for the election of the Presiding Officers of the Third Regional Conference:

a) To put into practice the principle of rotation of duties of the Presiding Officers among the member countries of ECLAC;

b) In order to provide greater facility and effectiveness to their functioning, to reduce the number of members of the Presiding Officers to the offices of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur; and

c) To seek adequate geographical distribution, including as Presiding Officers representatives of Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Group and the Southern Cone.

The sixth meeting (Havana, November 1984) considered the results of the Third Regional Conference and analysed at the regional level the progress, obstacles and strategies to be considered by the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Preparation for the 1985 World Conference.

The purpose of the seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers (Mexico City, October 1987) was to review the activities of the period and to plan the Fourth Regional Conference.

The eighth meeting (Guatemala City, September 1988) analysed the documentation prepared for the Fourth Regional Conference, especially in relation to the assessment of the situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

3. Presiding Officers

Presiding Officers of the First Regional Conference

Chairman	:	Cuba
First Vice-Chairman	:	Jamaica
Second Vice-Chairman	:	Mexico
Rapporteur	:	Venezuela

A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSES OF THE MEETING

1. Mandate of the Presiding Officers

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, pursuant to the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (RPA), are "the link between governments and the secretariat of CEPAL in the field of women's integration in development".*/ The RPA stipulates that "the secretariat of CEPAL will act as the Permanent Secretariat of this Regional Conference and will regularly consult with its Presiding Officers".**/

2. Previous meetings of the Presiding Officers

The Presiding Officers have met eight times.

The first meeting (Kingston, February 1978) was for the purpose of holding consultations on the progress made in the implementation of RPA, and included a call for a group of experts to meet prior to the Second Regional Conference.

The second meeting (Mexico City, September 1978) dealt with the progress made in relation to RPA, and also considered actions connected with problems affecting children, the family and women. It also discussed preparations for the Second Regional Conference.

The third meeting (Quito, March 1979) recognized and considered the results of the work of the above-mentioned group of government experts, and discussed preparations for the Second Regional Conference and the participation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1980.

*/ 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, para. 88 (2).

**/ Ibid., para. 88 (3).

These Presiding Officers held three meetings. They were elected by the First Regional Conference (Havana, Cuba, June 1977) and remained in office until the Second Regional Conference.

Presiding Officers of the Second Regional Conference

Chairman	:	Venezuela
Vice-Chairmen	:	Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica

These Presiding Officers held two meetings. They were elected by the Second Regional Conference (Macuto, Venezuela, November 1979) and remained in office until the Third Regional Conference.

Presiding Officers of the Third Regional Conference

Chairman	:	Mexico
Vice-Chairmen	:	Ecuador, Guyana, Panama
Rapporteur	:	Argentina

These Presiding Officers held three meetings. At the first (sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers), Cuba participated as an observer. The Officers were elected by the Third Regional Conference (Mexico City, 1983) and remained in office until the Fourth Regional Conference.

Presiding Officers of the Fourth Regional Conference

Chairman	:	Guatemala
Vice-Chairmen	:	Netherlands Antilles, Argentina, Cuba
Rapporteur	:	Venezuela

These Presiding Officers are still in office, and were elected by the Fourth Regional Conference (Guatemala City, 1988).

4. Purposes of the present meeting

The ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers is being held pursuant to the above-mentioned RPA mandate. Its purposes are, in accordance with the proposed provisional agenda, to review Secretariat activities since the Fourth Conference, to present the studies carried out during this period, to consider the necessary preparations for forthcoming conferences and to analyse the work programme of the Secretariat.

The crisis in the Latin American and Caribbean region has been especially damaging to extensive sectors of women. In these circumstances, it is hoped that the Presiding Officers of the Fourth Regional Conference will play an active role in studies and actions relating to the problems of women

in the region, and will guide the activities and programmes of ECLAC to ensure the continuity of policies to improve women's living conditions.

The role of the Presiding Officers, which is to link and provide a liaison between the ECLAC Secretariat and governments, is of fundamental importance during this period in reinforcing the topic in the region and providing it with appropriate technology.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Presiding Officers may decide to adopt the provisional agenda proposed by the Secretariat or may suggest any changes they deem relevant.

2. Report on Secretariat activities

The Secretariat has prepared an activities report which covers two areas: actions taken from 1 July 1988 to 31 July 1989, which relate to this agenda item, and a future activities programme, which relates to agenda item 6. In both cases, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Fourth Regional Conference, priority will be given to liaison with the countries, better co-ordination with other United Nations bodies and maintaining the present line of research and studies, which is of fundamental importance in accumulating more precise information on the subject.

3. Presentation of substantive documents prepared since the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Secretariat is submitting the following documents to the Presiding Officers:

a) Working documents

1. Activities of the ECLAC Secretariat relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 July 1988 to 31 July 1989 (LC/L.516(MDM.9/3)).

2. Rural women of Latin America and the Caribbean: results of projects and programmes (LC/L.513), Women and Development series, No. 1.

3. Women and politics in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.515), Women and Development series, No. 3.

4. Latin America: the challenge of socializing the domestic environment (LC/L.514), Women and Development series, No. 2.

Working documents 2, 3 and 4 are studies aimed at expanding and updating knowledge on subjects which are considered by the United Nations to have priority, and which have been discussed at meetings and seminars of experts. With these three documents, the ECLAC Unit for the Integration of Women in Development is initiating the new "Women and Development" series, whose purpose is to expand the dissemination of publications and present them so that they are easy to understand.

b) Reference documents

1. Report of the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1539(CRM.4/13)).

2. Report of the Eighth 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 (LC/L.483(MEM.8/2)).

3. Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Selected resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly during the period 1981-1988 on the situation of women and their integration into economic and social development (LC/G.1576).

6. Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1).

7. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Convening of a world conference to review and appraise progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1989/9).

8. Selected ECLAC documents and publications on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1987-1989 (LC/L.460/Rev.1).

4. Forthcoming conferences

Discussions by the Presiding Officers on forthcoming regional or world conferences on women and development seem to be called for.

The convening of a world conference has already been discussed in the United Nations. The ECLAC Secretariat is submitting some information in this regard, including an extract of the debates of the thirty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Note by the Secretary-General listed as a reference document in the preceding section.

It would appear useful to have an exchange of views concerning the next world conference, to be held in 1995. Consideration should be given to the possibility that the region might hold both a regular regional conference and a preparatory conference to prepare the position to be taken by Latin America and the Caribbean at the world conference. In accordance with the RPA mandates, the next regular regional conference is to be held no later than 1992.*/ The preparatory conference, in this case, could be held in 1994.

5. Work programme of the Secretariat

The first working document includes, as mentioned, a summary of future activities considered by the Secretariat as having priority in the region. The Presiding Officers may feel that this proposal is minimal, and may offer guidance to the Secretariat on these or other priority actions. It would likewise be appropriate to look into the availability of resources for these activities.

Under this item, the Secretariat will report on the series of actions being taken within the United Nations system with regard to women, for the purpose of co-ordinating activities and making better use of resources.

6. Periodicity of meetings of the Presiding Officers

As mentioned above, the crisis affecting the region has been especially damaging to extensive sectors of women. In this situation, efforts to safeguard the priority assigned by the region to women's issues are of special importance. Periodic meetings of the Presiding Officers, acting as an executive committee, might make a significant contribution to keeping governments aware of the situation of women.

7. Other business

Under this agenda item, the Presiding Officers may propose any additional topics which they feel should be considered during the meeting.

*/ Ibid., para. 88 (1).