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

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mandate

1. The sixteenth 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 sixteenth 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 Port of Spain on 6 July 2009.

Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following United Nations funds and programmes: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

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

5. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental Organizations: Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) of the Organization of American States (OAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB).

6. Also present were representatives of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID).

B. AGENDA

7. The participants adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session
 3. Preparations for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia, July 2010)
 4. Report of the secretariat on the launch of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean
 5. Report of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women
 6. Other matters

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

8. After Neil Pierre, Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, had welcomed the participants and wished them a fruitful meeting, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean also welcomed those present and highlighted the importance of the sixteenth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She then recalled that this meeting was being held against the backdrop of a profound global economic crisis, as would the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was to be held in Brasilia in July 2010.

Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session (agenda item 2)

9. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC referred to the main recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women and reviewed the issues that this Commission would be addressing in the period 2010-2014, with a view to situating the coordination and collaboration initiatives to be agreed upon among the agencies of the United Nations system. This meeting was taking place in the context of a forward-looking process that had begun on 23 April 2008 in Bogota and was, in turn, set within the framework of the mandates of Beijing, Cairo, the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as important issues on the current international agenda, such as the financial crisis and climate change. Both the process of Beijing+15 and that of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be processes of forward-looking analysis, in which the achievements of the last 15 years would be evaluated and the governments and international agencies would work together

to address the challenges involved in the implementation of the commitments assumed under the Platform for Action and the creative efforts needed to achieve them fully.

Preparations for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia, July 2010) (agenda item 3)

10. In presenting the preparations for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC praised the commitment shown by the Government of Brazil in organizing the event and said that it was desirable that the agenda approved in Quito be included in the Brasilia Consensus in order to avoid repetition and incorporate new issues. One of the region's great achievements was the place occupied by the Quito Consensus on its governments' public agendas. It was to be hoped that the agencies of the United Nations system would support the governments and would include preparatory activities for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference in their respective programmes of work, and that they would send information about these activities to the secretariat in as processed a form as possible. The Officer-in-Charge expressed the expectation that the Conference would be a heavyweight political event, underlined the increase in women's leadership in the region and presence of increasing numbers of women in positions of power and referred to the prominent figures expected to attend the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women and participate in the high-level panel that would open the event. She stressed the importance of identifying the right participants for this panel and for the other substantive panels and asked the United Nations agencies to suggest suitable names, including ministers and experts from the Caribbean. Efforts should be made to encourage the participation of young and indigenous women, female members of parliament and men, as well as to ensure gender-balanced delegations. It was also necessary to maintain a regional balance and have voices at the event that would offer opinions from different perspectives.

11. Regarding the position document to be presented at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that every effort was being made to include an analysis of the crisis and its impact, both in the document and among the issues dealt with at the meeting. The document would be based on national and regional statistical information and on data included in the reports prepared by governments as part of the follow-up processes of Beijing+15 and the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. It would also contain a section suggesting some policy orientations. The Officer-in-Charge then offered a detailed account of the contents of the position document and said that particular attention would be devoted to economic, labour, trade and social policies in order to identify those areas in which progress had been made and to propose a road map for achieving real results in terms of gender equality. One chapter of the document would be devoted especially to the financial crisis and participants were invited to share relevant data and studies and to engage in new research and prepare their own documents for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference.

12. After reviewing the organization of work for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs noted that another important contribution of the United Nations system would be the preparation of the side events. These events should complement the work of the delegations, take an inter-agency format and be promoted by the international organizations. It was explained that the sponsoring agencies would be responsible for ensuring the provision of Spanish-English interpreting services, and a number of themes were suggested for the side events: the information society, the economic cost of violence against women, gender policies for employment adopted by private enterprise, the role of the media in processes of equality and inequality, and employment and unpaid work performed by rural women in the context of the food and energy crisis.

13. The representatives of the United Nations agencies expressed their support for the work of ECLAC and drew attention to the special relevance of the present moment, which represented the convergence of the fifteenth anniversary of Beijing and Cairo, the tenth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration and of resolution 1325 (2000) of the Security Council, and the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. There was a consensus regarding the importance of evaluating the real changes in women's lives, regardless of the positive measures reported by Governments in their national reports, and of increasing synergies between the women's movement and State initiatives. The agencies also reported on issues that could contribute to the position document of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, expressed great interest in the side events and agreed that these could serve as a bridge between the economic issues dealt with by the Conference and other significant matters, such as sexual and reproductive rights and health-care issues. They also mentioned the need to incorporate the ethnical and racial perspective into the discussion and expressed particular concern over the problem of material mortality among indigenous women.

14. The Director of the UNIFEM Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean said that this was a key moment at the international level, which must be seized. She agreed that it was necessary to look at what would happen after 2015 and that there was a generalized feeling that women would find their position weakened as a result of the financial crisis and said that this was a perfect time to inject fresh vigour into movements lobbying for gender equality. She also emphasized the need to ascertain and communicate what was happening in the global economy and to analyse in depth the impact of the financial crisis on the work of the agencies of the United Nations system. The Regional Programme Director of the UNIFEM Caribbean Office asked for further information on the study on national mechanisms for the advancement of women being conducted by the Division for the Advancement of Women jointly with the five regional commissions of the United Nations and stressed the importance of drawing attention to the contradiction between the disappearance of the role of the State in the economy and the growing body of government discourse about human rights.

15. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) agreed that it was important to bear in mind that the eleventh session of the Regional Conference would be taking place against the backdrop of the crisis and noted that it was necessary to analyse not only the impact of the crisis on women but also the impact of women on the crisis. She mentioned the importance of access to health care and to family planning services—which was declining—and said that several countries were already reconsidering what they had done in this area in previous decades. It was necessary to examine the economic problems involved in this situation and focus on the increase in maternal mortality. She noted that longevity was now a significant issue and emphasized the importance of ensuring the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendent women in the Brasilia meeting.

16. The representative of the World Bank explained that her organization was working hard on the issue of women's economic empowerment and would have a regional study ready in May 2010. Efforts would be made to share the individual inputs for that report with ECLAC in advance. She reported that this study was looking in particular at economic decision-making processes in the household and the impact of family care work, and a number of ECLAC studies on paid and unpaid work were being used as a basis for this.

Report of the secretariat on the launch of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

17. The representative of ECLAC presented the website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, gave a detailed explanation of the process of data compilation for the different indicators and encouraged the representatives of the United Nations system to navigate the website and send

their contributions. The representatives of the agencies congratulated ECLAC on the quality of the website and asked a number of questions about the collection of indicators. Following this discussion, the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC extended an invitation for those United Nations agencies that were not yet members of the inter-agency working group to participate in the Observatory.

Report of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women (agenda item 5)

18. The representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) gave an account of the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, on behalf of the inter-agency working group which UNIFEM headed together with UNFPA and ECLAC. She noted the efforts made thus far, the main outcomes, the work plan for the future and the measures that would need to be taken to ensure the success of the regional campaign. She recalled that a number of agencies had stated their intention of participating in the campaign: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the International Labour Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development, the Ibero-American Secretariat and ECLAC. However, only seven of these had appointed focal points and it was hoped that more would do so by the end of the meeting. The campaign for Latin America would be launched in Guatemala, if possible to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November 2009. Guatemala had been chosen as a country in which there were synergies between the efforts of the women's movement and the Government's commitments in view of the magnitude of violence against women and the impunity of its perpetrators. The working group was available to support the organization of a similar campaign in the Caribbean at a suitable date. The presidents of the countries of the region would have to make a commitment to the campaign, which should be launched even knowing that the statistics did not reflect the reality. The representative asked that all the agencies send the name of their focal point and opined that efforts should be made to encourage the participation of famous personalities and well-known local figures in order to disseminate the campaign as broadly as possible.

19. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) congratulated UNIFEM for the good work and for its leadership of the working group and said that at this stage of campaign implementation it was necessary to establish a stable working mechanism with the focal points of each agency. The idea was supported by several participants, who also mentioned that this mechanism could meet in the facilities of the United Nations in Panama.

20. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reiterated the commitment of her agency to the campaign and reported that funds were available to start implementing the communications strategy that had been agreed upon previously.

21. The Regional Programme Director for the Caribbean of UNIFEM noted that the basic objective of the campaign was to engage the commitment of States and emphasized that its activities must be consistent with the guidelines of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the United Nations country teams (UNCT). Consistency was very important and the negotiations that would have to be conducted among various country teams in the Caribbean could be consolidated later with those carried out in Latin America.

22. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recalled that this agency had always been firmly committed to the struggle against gender violence and noted the need to explain and delineate better the different responsibilities in the framework of the campaign. She referred to the importance of data collection and maintained that any achievement, however small, was a great advance and should be safeguarded. She proposed reviewing the working model created by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and PAHO, together with the evaluations of previous inter-agency campaigns conducted by UNIFEM, IACW and PAHO to extract the best practices that had been identified. It was important to take advantage of everything that had been learned from that joint work, to encourage the exchange of know-how among subregions and to work with civil society, ensuring that all the parties involved were transmitting the same substantive message. The representative then reported that PAHO was opening an office in Trinidad and Tobago and was embarking on a new line of work on masculinity.

23. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that the efforts of the High Commissioner were focused on the first pillar of the campaign, aimed at ending impunity, and noted that it was necessary to draw the attention of the judicial powers in order to investigate, identify and sanction the perpetrators of crimes. In her opinion, what was happening in El Salvador was even more worrying than what was happening in Guatemala or Mexico and more work was needed with indigenous and Afro-descendent women.

24. The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) of the Organization of American States (OAS) said that IACW was working on two projects, one on HIV/AIDS and its links with violence against women and the other on educating young men with a view to preventing violence. The preliminary results of both studies could be of use for the campaign.

25. The representative of the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) recalled the mandate of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government with regard to the implementation in 2009 of a campaign to raise awareness about gender violence, especially among young people in Latin America and the Iberian peninsula. She indicated that the next meeting of the Summit could be used as an opportunity to raise support for the Secretary-General's campaign and explained that SEGIB aimed, above all, to generate a massive movement on the Internet, for which it had registered the web domains "Maltratocero" and "Maltratozero". She then presented a video spot featuring both well-known and anonymous people and a brief message about gender violence.

26. The representatives of the United Nations agencies agreed that it would be worthwhile to take advantage of the regional centres of the different agencies in Panama to set up a mechanism for the joint operation of the focal points. They referred to the problems of domestic workers and of violence in the workplace, and to the importance of reconciling work and family responsibilities, and particularly mentioned the importance of statistics on violence collected by police departments in the countries. They also noted the need to work with suitable programmes, especially designed by each country for its own specific circumstances, and suggested that the issue of violence be addressed from two angles: reducing violence and empowering victims.

27. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the agencies could collaborate by promptly designating a focal point and that those focal points should start work as quickly as possible. She recalled that a teleconference would be held monthly to exchange experiences.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

28. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) invited the other agencies of the United Nations system, especially ECLAC, UNIFEM and UNICEF, to collaborate in the preparation of gender and health profiles at the national, subnational and regional levels.

D. ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS

29. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system represented at the sixteenth inter-agency meeting adopted the following agreements:

1. Approve the scheme proposed by ECLAC for the organization of work of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Brasilia from 13 to 16 July 2010.
2. Include preparatory activities for the eleventh session of the Regional Conference in their programmes of work.
3. Send to ECLAC all the information and studies available on the issues to be addressed at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a contribution to the preparation of the position document.
4. Assume responsibility for the organization of side events in the framework of the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on issues to be proposed to the member countries whose representatives serve as Presiding Officers of the Conference at their forty-third meeting, including:
 - (a) Gender policies for the information society;
 - (b) The economic cost of violence against women;
 - (c) Gender policies for employment adopted by large, medium-sized and small private enterprises;
 - (d) The role of the media in processes of gender equality and inequality;
 - (e) Employment and unpaid work performed by rural women in the context of the food and energy crisis;
 - (f) Universal health coverage and women's sexual and reproductive rights.
5. Organize those events using an inter-agency format and to assume the costs of holding them, including interpreting costs and the travel expenses of specialists invited to participate in the sessions.

6. Congratulate ECLAC on the launch of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and analyse additional contributions —financial, technical and substantive— that their organizations could make.
7. Approve the lines of action proposed by UNIFEM, UNFPA and ECLAC for the implementation of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Support the activities proposed for the launch of the campaign in Guatemala, as a country that is emblematic of the grave situation of violence against women and in the framework of the collaboration agreed upon with that country's Government, as far as possible for 25 November 2009.
9. Propose to the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that the slogan for the 2009 and 2010 regional campaign be aligned with that of the campaign 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence against women, to be launched on 25 November 2009: Commit • Act • Demand: We CAN end violence against women!
10. Establish a mechanism of regular coordination, to be headed by UNIFEM, UNFPA and ECLAC, among the campaign focal points designated by the organizations involved in the inter-agency working group, which will include the focal points of the campaign's Regional Directors Group.
11. Suggest that this mechanism be supported by the agencies operating in the Panama regional hub, that it hold at least one group-wide teleconference per month and that it make use of the virtual platforms available within the United Nations system to carry out the following tasks:
 - (a) Implement the regional activities proposed to promote the regional campaign;
 - (b) Provide support for the launching of the campaign in the Caribbean;
 - (c) Ensure that the implementation of activities under the regional campaign is consistent with the experience and mandate of each organization involved and backstops the United Nations country teams and the processes of UNDAF;
 - (d) Ensure the unity of national, regional and global messages regarding the objectives of the campaign;
 - (e) Identify mechanisms of collaboration with like-minded institutions and agencies that ask to participate in the campaign;
 - (f) Work in consultation with regional and national non-governmental organizations.

Annex 1

**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)**

- Carmen Rosa Villa Quintana, Representante Regional, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe

**B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies****Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

- Gladys Acosta, Directora, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Roberta Clarke, Directora Regional de Programa, Caribe/Regional Programme Director, Caribbean Office
- Carolina Tabora, Especialista de Programa, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Programme Specialist, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- María Leticia Guelfi, Especialista de Programa, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Program Specialist, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/The United Nations Children's Fund

- Christine Norton, Asesora Regional de Desarrollo de Adolescente y Equidad de Género

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

- Ana Elena Badilla, Asesora Regional en Género, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe/Latin American and 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, Centro Regional para América Latina y el Caribe

Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones y Capacitación para la Promoción de la Mujer/International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)

- Hilary Anderson, Officer-in-Charge/Information Officer

C. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Paula Robinson, Especialista en Actividades con los trabajadores

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

- Marijke Velzeboer-Salcedo, Coordinadora, Oficina de Género, Etnicidad y Salud
- Alma Catharina Cuellar, Asesora Regional, Oficina de Género, Etnicidad y Salud
- Sonja A. Caffé, HIV Technical Advisor, HIV Caribbean Office

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

- Marcela Ballara, Oficial Principal de Género y Equidad y Empleo Rural

Banco Mundial/World Bank

- María Beatriz Orlando, Coordinadora Regional de Género para América Latina y el Caribe, Economista Senior

D. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales Other intergovernmental organizations

Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Dr. Halima-Sa'adia Kassim, Deputy Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development with responsibility for Gender and Development

Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

- Mercedes Kremenetzky, Secretaria Ejecutiva a.i., Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM)

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

- Ángeles Yáñez-Barnuevo, Directora, División de Asuntos Sociales/Director, Social Affairs Division
- María Jesús Aranda, Asesora de Género

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

- Melania Portilla, Especialista en Desarrollo Rural Sostenible

E. Otros invitados
Other guests

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

- Marisa Ramos Rollón, Jefa de División de Gobernabilidad Democrática, Dirección de Cooperación Sectorial y Multilateral
- Raquel Tomás Pérez, Responsable Regional de Género, Dirección de Cooperación para América Latina y el Caribe

F. Secretaría
Secretariat

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

- Sonia Montaña, Oficial a cargo, División de Asuntos de Género/Officer in Charge, Division for Gender Affairs
- Rocío Rosero Garcés, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Diane Alméras, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Jimena Arias Feijóo, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Carlos Maldonado, Oficial Asociado de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Associate Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs
- Guillermo Acuña, Oficial Asociado de Asuntos Jurídicos, Secretaría de la Comisión/Associate Legal Officer, Secretary of the Commission

Sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

- Neil Pierre, Director
- Sheila Stuart, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales/Social Affairs Officer

