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FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



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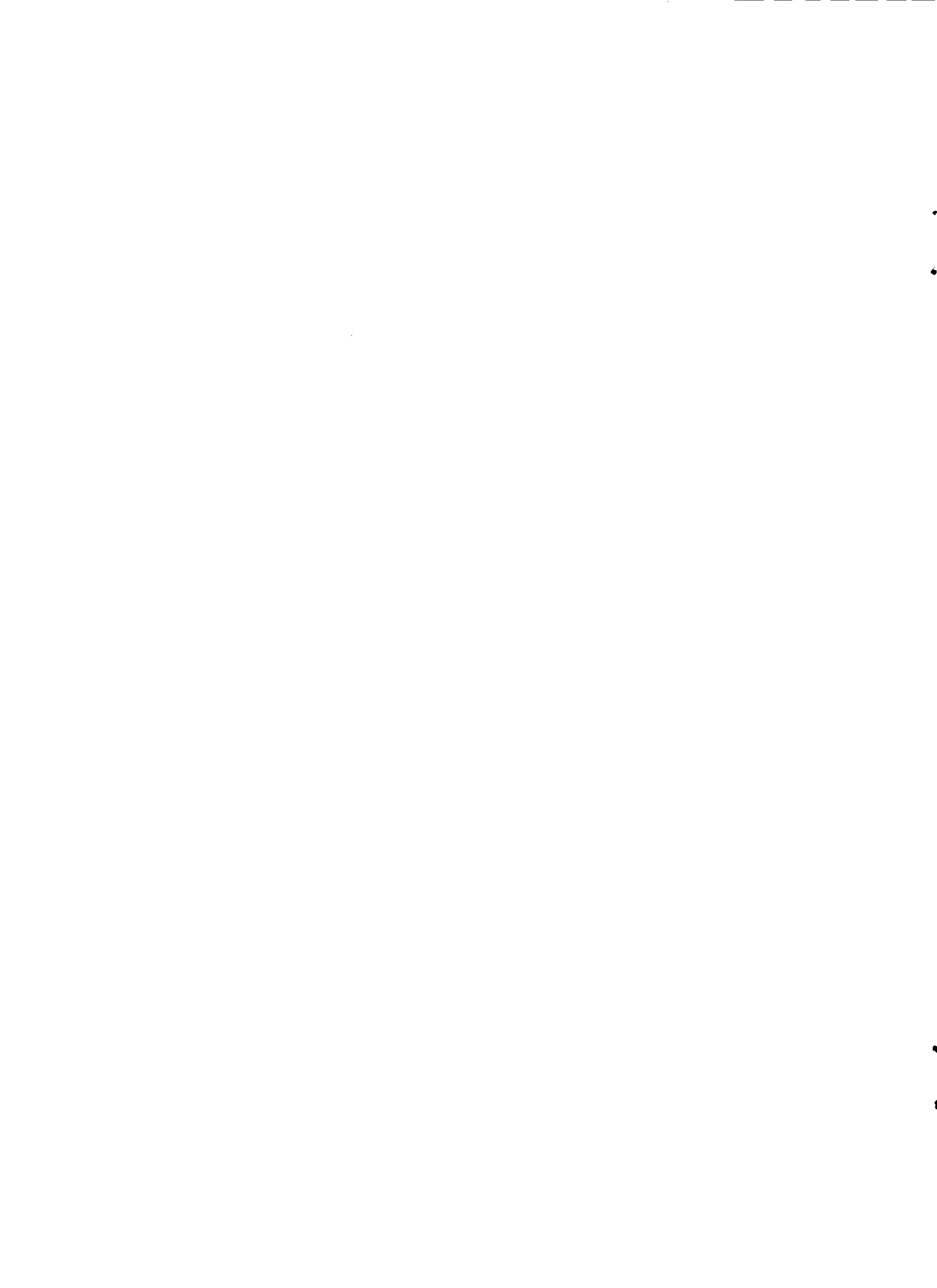
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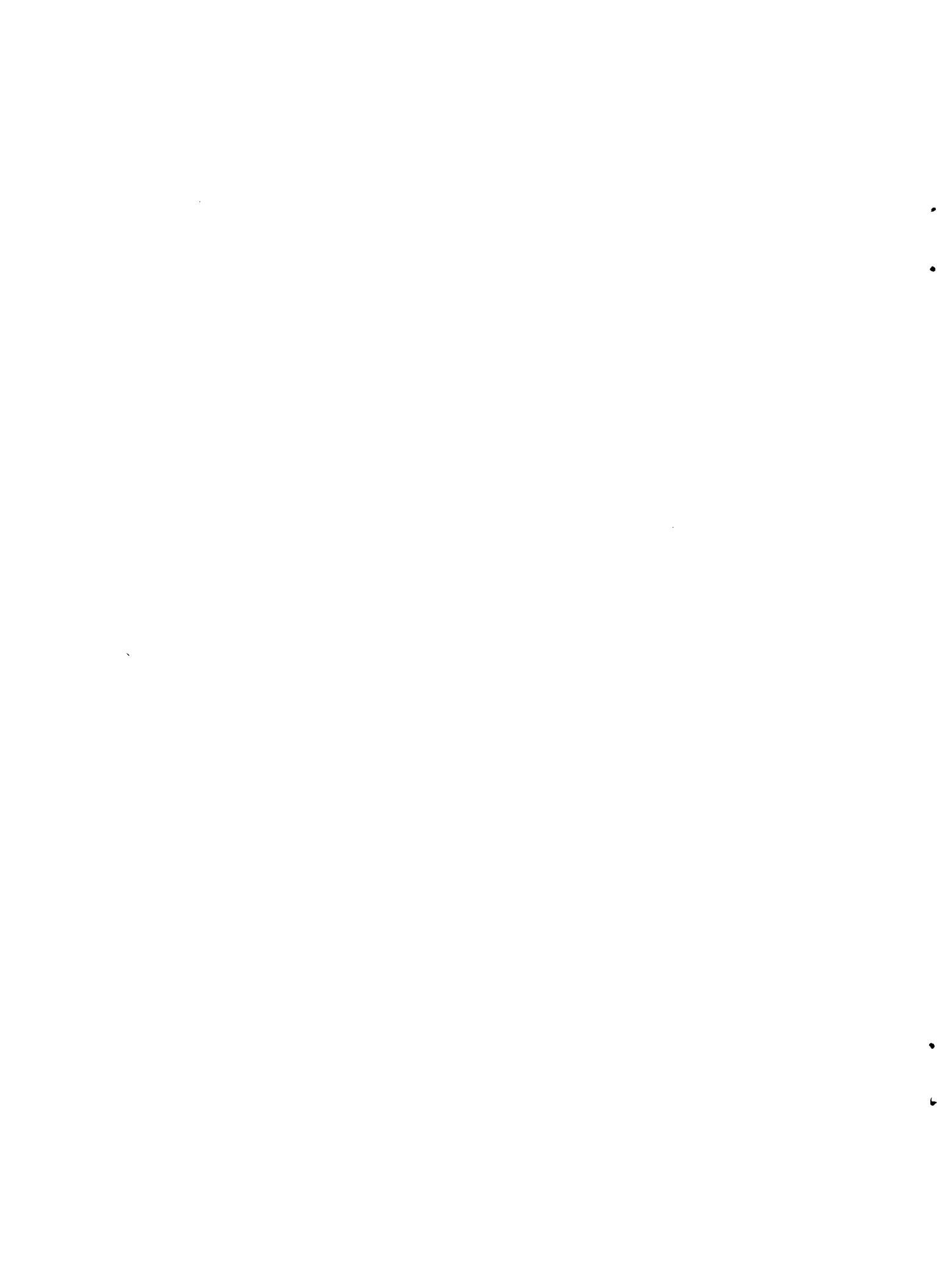
**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS  
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Havana, Cuba, 28 and 29 April 2003



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

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their thirty-fifth meeting in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 April 2003.

### **Attendance**

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries members of ECLAC: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.
3. The Netherlands Antilles and Puerto Rico, which are associate members of ECLAC, were also represented.
4. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, funds and programmes also attended the meeting: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and World Food Programme (WFP).
5. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO).
6. The following intergovernmental organizations participated in the meeting: Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

### **Chairperson and Rapporteur**

7. The meeting was chaired by the representative of Peru. The representative of Mexico served as Rapporteur.

## **B. AGENDA**

8. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda
  2. Review and analysis of activities carried out by the Presiding Officers and the ECLAC secretariat since the thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers

3. Preliminary analysis of the implementation of the regional commitments undertaken at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and discussion of member countries' proposals on priority issues for the ninth session of the Regional Conference, to be held in the first half of 2004
4. Review of prior agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers
5. Other matters.

### C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

9. At the opening meeting, statements were made by Ms. Yolanda Ferrer, Secretary-General of the Federation of Cuban Women; Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and Ms. Ana María Romero-Lozada, Minister for Women's Affairs and Social Development of Peru and Chairperson of the Presiding Officers.

10. The Secretary-General of the Federation of Cuban Women drew attention to the worsening economic crisis, which was denying millions of people their right to work, food, education, health and life itself. Income distribution was more inequitable in Latin America and the Caribbean than anywhere else in the world, and women suffered most from the consequences of neo-liberal economic policies: the proliferation of the exploitative maquila industry, the increased precariousness of employment and the reduced coverage of social services as a result of privatization. In Cuba, full equality of opportunity between men and women had been a primary objective of the Government since 1959. Consequently, many of the goals to which other countries still aspired had long since been achieved in Cuba. Her Government had made steady progress in mainstreaming the gender perspective in all government ministries, the media and the country's laws. The women of Cuba had made solid progress and intended to continue building upon those gains in the future.

11. The Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean said that the current meeting of the Presiding Officers was particularly important because decisions would be taken on the process of assessing the implementation of regional and global commitments. The availability of regional gender indicators and official data disaggregated by sex had enabled the Women and Development Unit, in cooperation with the ECLAC Population Division – Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, to prepare a preliminary overview of the regional situation, using a rights-based approach to evaluate progress in the light of the Millennium Declaration, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and the Beijing Platform for Action. ECLAC suggested that two main themes should be considered at the ninth session of the Regional Conference: poverty and gender equity, on the one hand, and institution-building and women's political participation, on the other. The discussions on the first theme would be based on the concept of women's economic and social rights, highlighting their contributions to poverty reduction and obstacles to their involvement in policy design. The second theme was important because complex institution-building processes often tended to weaken machineries for the advancement of women and to jeopardize the sustainability of the changes implemented. ECLAC felt that the ninth session should involve all social and institutional stakeholders and should be preceded by three subregional preparatory meetings: one for Mexico and Central America, one for the Caribbean and one for South America. Lastly, offices for women in the region had played a

major role in the achievements of the last decade. Renewed efforts were needed to monitor compliance with commitments, disseminate best practices and strengthen the political will of the region's Governments with respect to gender equity.

12. The Chairperson of the Presiding Officers said that although the region's countries had common aspirations, problems and commitments, they had made different degrees of progress towards gender equity goals. The current meeting provided a forum for exchanging experiences and lessons learned. Globalization had facilitated the exercise of rights and the implementation of regional and international commitments, and had made it possible to design new development models for combating poverty and inequality, but it had also revealed new vulnerabilities. At the Millennium Summit, developed and developing countries had agreed to build a new social order with the aim of eliminating poverty. Latin America and the Caribbean should adopt a proactive agenda for building that new international social order; the Regional Conference was an appropriate forum for that exercise. Lastly, after welcoming the Commission's efforts to develop indicators for monitoring compliance with international agreements, the Chairperson, in her capacity as the representative of Peru, said that her country was committed to the full implementation of the agreements adopted at the current meeting and to continuing its ongoing dialogue with the other countries of the region.

Review and analysis of activities carried out by the Presiding Officers and the ECLAC secretariat since the thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers (agenda item 2)

13. The representative of the secretariat introduced the report on the Commission's activities in relation to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which covered the period from 1 July 2001 to 31 March 2003. The report was divided into three parts: the follow-up to the Beijing Platform and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001; projects and technical assistance; and gender mainstreaming in the work of ECLAC. The project on the gender impact of pension reform, which was nearing completion, was an example of how ECLAC could generate new knowledge on the subject by forming networks of political and social entities at the country level, stimulating a national debate in each country and completing the analysis with the involvement of different divisions of ECLAC so as to integrate various disciplines in both the social and economic spheres. That knowledge was then made available to the countries for use in their own initiatives. Information on the project could be found on the ECLAC web site ([www.eclac.cl/mujer](http://www.eclac.cl/mujer)).

14. The project on democratic governance and gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean had been carried out in Brazil, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay, and would soon be extended to Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and two Caribbean countries. The aim of the project was to support the design of policy strategies and to build analytical capacity in the countries. One of its first findings was that the institutional sustainability of gender policies in the region was uncertain. A survey had been circulated to determine how many heads of national offices for women had ministerial rank, how many of them were included in government cabinets, how often those cabinets discussed gender issues and which specific issues they addressed. According to the results, social and gender issues were dealt with far too seldom. In addition, some respondents had mentioned that the level of priority assigned to those offices' agendas and financing needs was ambiguous. Gender equity was not yet on the political agenda of most countries.

15. With respect to gender mainstreaming in the work of ECLAC, the use of a gender perspective in a study on mining prepared by its Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division exemplified the application of a more human approach in an area that traditionally had been considered in strictly

economic terms. The report also included information on activities related to gender issues in areas such as statistics, economic development and population. At its biennial session in 2004, ECLAC would deal with the issue of productive development. The Women and Development Unit planned to include, among the topics analysed in that regard, women's contribution to productive development.

16. The representative of ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico said that over the last six months, her office had carried out activities to facilitate rural women's access to credit, natural resources and land ownership. The project on responsible fatherhood had been completed and the results had been published, together with policy proposals and indicators on the subject. The Social Development Unit was incorporating the gender perspective into its work on social policies, poverty and governance. The addition of a new Professional post on gender and development attested to the importance of gender issues in the work of the subregional headquarters in Mexico.

17. The representative of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean said that work on gender issues was structured around three themes: gender mainstreaming, violence against women, and gender and macroeconomic policies. The subregional headquarters supported the adoption of national plans of action on gender mainstreaming by disseminating analyses and best practices. The work done with institutions that dealt with the issue of violence against women had focused on domestic violence. The Regional Conference on Gender-based Violence and the Administration of Justice, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 3 to 5 February 2003, had been attended by police officers, psychologists and social workers, who had assessed police training to deal with cases of domestic violence and had begun to identify elements of an integrated plan of action. The subregional headquarters was also analysing the root causes of domestic violence. With regard to macroeconomic policies, it was developing a training module on gender analysis and gender planning for economists.

18. The representatives of the countries welcomed the efforts made to study a variety of issues from a gender perspective, and urged ECLAC to incorporate more areas not traditionally considered in relation to gender. Some delegations highlighted the fact that national machineries for the advancement of women had been represented at the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas. Efforts should be made to incorporate sexual and reproductive issues, including HIV/AIDS, into legal frameworks on migration. With respect to heads of national women's institutions with ministerial rank, countries should be asked whether that status was established by law or merely granted on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, no work had yet been done on how national machineries for women affected the State and what strategies they could use for that purpose. Those institutions must redouble their efforts to shore up support for the institutional framework for women, which was beginning to flag. On the subject of the gender perspective in the financial and economic sphere, it was noteworthy that microenterprises and microcredit—the lowest levels of production and financing—were usually discussed in relation to women. If women did not have full access to the means of production, they could not have genuine participation in decision-making.

Preliminary analysis of the implementation of the regional commitments undertaken at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and discussion of member countries' proposals on priority issues for the ninth session of the Regional Conference, to be held in the first half of 2004 (agenda item 3)

19. The representative of the secretariat introduced a working paper containing a preliminary analysis of the implementation of the regional commitments undertaken at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and at the Fourth World Conference on



Women, and said that its purpose was to help the Presiding Officers to define issues and working arrangements for the ninth session of the Regional Conference.

20. She recalled that, at the eighth session of the Regional Conference, held in Lima, Peru, in 2000, the participants had concluded that the progress achieved in the region had been mixed: while gender equity had become a high-visibility issue in Governments and international organizations, as reflected by the advances made in areas such as legislation and political participation, there were still many hurdles that stood in the way of gender equity, owing primarily to economic, financial and trade trends in the countries.

21. Currently, it was apparent that the structural trends identified three years earlier had not reversed course or changed significantly. Large numbers of women were still rapidly entering the labour market, although they were more likely than men to work in the informal sector, while the small percentage of men who shared responsibility for reproductive duties had not changed; universal primary education coverage was being consolidated throughout Latin America, but serious shortcomings were still in evidence at the secondary level and, especially, in higher education; and public policies on domestic violence, which had been the major innovation at the Lima Conference, had made substantial progress in all the countries. On the other hand, little progress had been made with respect to policies for addressing the differential impact of trade liberalization on women, especially in terms of the casualization of employment and the lack of social security.

22. One of the significant strides made since the Lima Conference was the current availability of indicators based on gender statistics, although the amount of work that remained to be done in that area still represented a tremendous challenge. Market trends, cultural values and institutional dynamics were the three factors which, together, made it possible to progress towards gender equity; the most important task in that regard was to quantify how and to what extent those three factors produced results in each country. On that basis, the working paper assessed the trends and highlighted the outstanding challenges of the past three years in five priority areas of the Beijing Platform for Action: employment and social security, poverty, education, institutional framework and political participation.

23. With regard to poverty, the higher proportion of women in the poor population was a cause for concern. The measurement of that proportion was still hampered by serious difficulties, however, since the statistical unit used was the household, not the individual, meaning that the real situation of each member of a given household was often hard to determine. In recent years, many countries had conducted evaluations of programmes for women heads of poor households; the results of such programmes should be analysed and evaluated to promote the application of effective policies and best practices.

24. With regard to education, equity could be said to have been achieved in general terms, especially in primary education. In secondary and higher education, there were major differences between countries, and a gender bias was still apparent in most traditionally male areas of study in higher education. On the other hand, the fact that Latin American women were becoming increasingly educated and that they were in a much better position in that regard than women living in other regions was undoubtedly positive.

25. In relation to economic and employment issues, women's higher skill levels were being underused in the region. Persistent problems included wage gaps and discriminatory practices that imposed more stringent requirements on women than on men competing for the same job. Other threats continued to prevent women from attaining equality in terms of economic autonomy and social security.

26. Major strides continued to be made in the area of institution-building and development of the legal framework. Nonetheless, the application of the new rules had proved to be more problematic, and institutional fragility was a constant threat, since many national machineries for the advancement of women suffered from a high level of rotation and restructuring, even within a single legislative session, and their modest financial resources were not commensurate with the broad mandates they received from their Governments. That situation pointed to considerable problems in terms of political power.

27. The fifth and last issue addressed in the working paper was that of political participation. No significant progress had been made in that regard except in countries where quotas for women's representation had been enforced. In general, women continued to be a "vast minority" not only in legislative posts, but also in other government bodies and in the senior management of private enterprise. That situation had remained virtually unchanged for the past decade.

28. The representative of the secretariat ended her introduction by asking the delegations to include, in their presentations, information on successful experiences in their countries which could be used to chart a course for a future agenda in the current regional context of sluggish economic growth, financial crisis, institutional fragility and a cultural climate hostile to gender equality.

29. In the ensuing debate, the participants commented on the working paper and supplied the information requested on their national experiences.

30. The delegations welcomed the development of regional indicators, but stressed that the countries needed technical assistance in developing national gender indicators for use in comparative studies within each country, as well as gender policy assessment and follow-up systems to quantify progress and setbacks. Renewed emphasis was placed on the importance of developing indicators for quantifying housework and the burden of women's reproductive duties and of analysing how those two variables influenced women's employment and unemployment rates. There were discrepancies in the methodology used to measure poverty among women, although that measurement was important for developing policies to promote women's full integration into productive activity and labour markets. One delegation made available to the Presiding Officers a basic system of gender indicators for measuring women's presence and participation in political life.

31. A number of delegations identified poverty eradication as an opportunity to address the demands of equity by incorporating the relevant gender dimensions. Most of the delegations referred to the need to foster the development of social networks and to promote participatory approaches that included civil-society movements, as an increasingly relevant factor in the definition of public policies and the strengthening of the institutional framework. Also in the social sphere, the countries of the region were showing greater interest in ageing processes and gender gaps, which translated into the development of programmes and policies.

32. In the area of education, one delegation mentioned the need for a qualitative analysis of the ideological content of school curricula, considering that, although boys and girls had universal access to primary education, no studies had been carried out to gauge the quality of the learning process. The representative of Cuba highlighted the achievements of that country's educational system in terms of equitable access to advanced technical and scientific training. It was observed that women's access to new technologies and to higher education in technical areas was still far too limited and fraught with difficulty in most of the countries of the region.

33. With respect to women's economic rights, it was clear that most of the countries of the region had not made significant progress, as shown, for example, by the gender bias apparent in the most recent pension reforms analysed by ECLAC, which preserved the model whereby women's social security and health care benefits depended on their marital status. Accordingly, equitable access to the means of production, labour rights and social security should be a core issue for discussion at the ninth session of the Regional Conference.

34. Some delegations felt that indicators should be developed to calculate the impact of women's gainful employment on household well-being. In addition, information was requested on the possibility that the growing number of women heads of household might be correlated with the increase in child labour. Effective tools were needed to measure the consequences of national and international trade policies for women's productivity and employment. That information was crucial in view of the magnitude of initiatives such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Several participants suggested that priority should be given, at the ninth session of the Regional Conference, to analysing the relationships among migration processes, the proportion of households headed by women, child labour and women's productivity and employment.

35. A number of delegations highlighted the issue of social security and health care coverage, with particular emphasis on reproductive health and the prevalence of AIDS, which was much higher in the Caribbean than in other countries of the region. The view was expressed that special attention should be paid to that issue at the ninth session of the Regional Conference and in the future activities of the ECLAC Women and Development Unit.

36. Several delegations underscored the importance of the issue of domestic violence. One delegation noted that no progress had been made on the issue of incest. Another delegation suggested that a special support group on domestic violence should be established for the Caribbean to help mitigate the high incidence of that phenomenon in the subregion. In that regard, it was necessary to break down cultural barriers to enable the countries to fully enforce the domestic violence laws they had adopted in recent years.

37. Some delegations emphasized that gender equity must be based on a change in attitudes and values, reflected in a new vision of society that redefined relationships between men and women on the basis of equity. Some of the means that could be used to that end were moral codes for the media and constant monitoring of advertising practices to detect the presence of sexist stereotypes, among others.

38. With respect to political participation, one delegation suggested that qualitative and quantitative analyses should be conducted of women's political careers as they progressed towards ministerial or legislative posts, to identify weaknesses and obstacles. Before gender equity could be attained in the area of political participation, efforts must be made to strengthen the exercise of democracy, legitimize public authorities and enhance the image of political life. To that end, the participation of civil-society organizations in political decision-making must be strengthened in all the countries of the region. The gender and decentralization approach was a good option, since it linked democratic governance and women's participation in political activity to the grass-roots level. One representative said that unequal access to power and the consequent shortage of economic resources was a constant concern for her country's machinery for the advancement of women, and suggested that that issue should be given priority at the ninth session of the Regional Conference. It was also suggested that the fragility of institutions that dealt with gender issues and their chronic resource problems might be due in part to their overdependence on international cooperation.

39. In view of the positive outcome of the participation of national machineries for the advancement of women in some of the delegations that had attended the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration, several representatives stressed the importance of undertaking studies on migration from a gender perspective.

40. The representatives of United Nations organizations, funds and programmes and of other regional and international organizations outlined the relevant activities carried out by those entities in recent months. On the basis of their presentations, and to provide inputs as to possible issues for discussion at the ninth session of the Regional Conference, they reported that their priority objectives for the short term were institution-building, time-use analysis in respect of women, trafficking in persons and its relationship to the phenomenon of forced migration, reproductive health and the continued development of gender indicators. Several organizations and institutions had collaborated with ECLAC in that last area.

41. The participants then discussed working arrangements for the ninth session of the Regional Conference. They agreed that the two thematic areas should be: (a) poverty, economy and the gender perspective, in relation to which rural and urban areas should be considered separately, and (b) empowerment, institution-building and the gender perspective, which would encompass concepts such as social and political participation and citizenship. Also of interest were some of the issues mentioned in the debate, such as violence against women, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and the role of the mass media. The ECLAC secretariat agreed to prepare a list of all the issues raised at the current meeting and to send it to the member Governments far enough in advance of the ninth session to enable them to submit comments and observations.

42. In terms of methodology, it was agreed that three subregional preparatory meetings should be held prior to the ninth session of the Regional Conference (see paragraph 11 of this report). The Regional Conference would consist of both plenary meetings and meetings of two working groups headed by a panel of experts in charge of analysing each of the two thematic areas mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Steps would also be taken to encourage the holding of side events for the discussion of emerging issues or issues that were not being discussed in depth by the working groups. Representatives of civil society could participate under one of three arrangements: (a) as members of government delegations, (b) as non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations or (c) as regional or subregional organizations not in consultative status, if the Presiding Officers authorized their participation.

#### Review of prior agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers (agenda item 4)

43. The representative of the secretariat reported on the status of signature and ratification, in each country of the region, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Information was then presented on regional, subregional and international meetings of interest to national offices for women, and was supplemented by comments and observations from some delegations.

44. Pursuant to agreement 11 adopted at the Presiding Officers' thirty-fourth meeting,<sup>1</sup> the Rapporteur provided information on the member countries' participation in the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration, held in Santiago, Chile, from 20 to 22 November 2002. Other delegations

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1857(MDM.34/3)), 2003.

presented information from their respective countries in relation to previous agreements on issues such as the economic valuation of housework, the compilation of statistics disaggregated by sex, poverty reduction activities with a gender perspective and women's participation in political life.

#### D. AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

45. At their thirty-fifth meeting the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the following agreements:

1. To highlight the active participation of offices for women in the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, from 20 to 22 November 2002, pursuant to the agreement adopted at the thirty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>2</sup>
2. To request national machineries for the advancement of women to make the necessary efforts to be included in their countries' government delegations to the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, to be held in Santiago, Chile, from 5 to 7 November 2003.
3. To commend ECLAC for its work in developing a system of gender indicators to facilitate region-wide comparability, and to request technical assistance from the Commission for the definition of national systems of gender indicators for use in carrying out comparative analyses within countries.
4. To advocate the express consideration of gender indicators as a subset of development indicators by the region's Governments.
5. To congratulate ECLAC for having provided technical assistance to countries under the projects "Democratic governance and gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean", "Gender impact of pension system reforms in Latin America" and "Use of gender indicators in public policy-making", among others.
6. To support the continuation of the Commission's work on the issue of governance and institutional strengthening of national machineries for women.
7. To welcome the priority assigned by ECLAC to the issue of gender equity, as manifested most recently by the establishment of a high-level Professional post on gender issues at its subregional headquarters in Mexico.
8. To direct that the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean should be held in Mexico between June and August 2004 for a period of four days and that it should focus on reviewing the implementation and fulfilment of international and regional agreements.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

9. To focus, at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the analysis of two thematic areas, tentatively referred to at the current stage as poverty, economy and gender equity, on the one hand, and empowerment, institution-building and gender equity, on the other, from the standpoint of human, civil, political, economic and cultural rights.
10. To request the ECLAC secretariat to prepare a list of the specific issues to be addressed under each of the thematic areas to be considered by the Regional Conference and to submit it for consideration to the countries represented by the Presiding Officers prior to the convening of the subregional preparatory meetings.
11. To request ECLAC to prepare a position paper for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, reflecting the inputs received from the countries during the preparation of the paper.
12. To urge national machineries for the advancement of women in the countries of the region to provide ECLAC with official information from their respective countries on the situation of poverty and institution-building from a gender perspective, as an input for the preparation of the position paper for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
13. To recommend that the work of the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean should be divided into three forums: an ongoing plenary meeting and two parallel thematic meetings on each of the two thematic areas tentatively referred to as poverty, economy and gender equity and empowerment, institution-building and gender equity. To facilitate the consideration of other issues, side events may be held with the active participation of other United Nations bodies and bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, with financing from the organizing institutions.
14. To request national machineries for the advancement of women to provide the secretariat with the names of the experts they wish to propose for each of the issues to be discussed at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
15. To request ECLAC to hold, between December 2003 and April 2004, three subregional preparatory meetings for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean—one for Mexico and Central America, one for the Caribbean and one for South America—and to focus the work of the three preparatory meetings on the review of the position paper to be prepared by ECLAC and on the organization of the work of the ninth session of the Regional Conference.
16. To welcome the offer of the Government of Honduras to host the subregional meeting for Mexico and Central America in preparation for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
17. To welcome also the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the subregional meeting for South America in preparation for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

18. To direct that the work of the subregional meeting for the Caribbean in preparation for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean should include an analysis of the two thematic areas for that session and the issue of sexual and reproductive health, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS.
19. To convene the thirty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers the day before the start of the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
20. To request the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as multilateral institutions operating in the region, to report to the Presiding Officers on activities planned for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, for consideration at the thirty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers.
21. To encourage the convening of a side event for representatives of civil society, organized and financed by the participating institutions, and to ensure that the conclusions of the event are presented at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
22. To acknowledge the contributions made by women's movements in the region to public policies on gender equity.
23. To facilitate the participation of representatives of networks of regional or subregional civil-society organizations not in consultative status with the United Nations.
24. To propose that the government delegations attending the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean should include representatives of civil-society organizations in the respective countries.
25. To request the ECLAC secretariat to make the necessary efforts to encourage the media to attend the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to provide ample news coverage of the event in all the countries of the region.
26. To remind participants to focus their statements, both at the preparatory meetings and at the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the issues previously identified for consideration and to provide written copies of their statements.
27. To request national machineries for the advancement of women, in line with the practice at the twenty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and pursuant to agreements 4 and 5 adopted at the thirty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers,<sup>3</sup> to make the necessary efforts to be included in their countries' government delegations to the thirtieth session of the Commission and the fifth meeting

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<sup>3</sup> Report of the thirty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1654(MDM.33/4)), 2002.

of its sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, to be held in Puerto Rico in 2004.

28. To thank ECLAC and the Government of Cuba for providing facilities for the meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women on 30 April and to request the secretariat to support the continued use of this arrangement.
29. To pursue efforts to strengthen links between national machineries for the advancement of women, on the one hand, and ministries of foreign affairs and country representations to the United Nations, on the other.



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### A. Estados miembros de la Comisión Member States of the Commission

#### ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

- Sheila Roseau, Directora, Dirección de Asuntos de Género

#### ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- José María Aller, Encargado de Negocios, Embajada de Argentina en Cuba

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Eduardo Porretti, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Argentina en Cuba

#### BOLIVIA

Representante/Representative:

- María Esther Seleme, Encargada de Negocios, Embajada de Bolivia en Cuba

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Sonia Alcocer, Primer Secretaria, Embajada de Bolivia en Cuba

#### BRASIL/BRAZIL

Representante/Representative:

- Emilia Fernandes, Ministra, Secretaría Especial de Políticas para las Mujeres

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Clara Charf, Asesora Secretaría Especial de Políticas para las Mujeres y de la Secretaría Nacional de Relaciones Internacionales del Partido de los Trabajadores
- Adelaide Suely de Oliveira, Subsecretaria de Monitoreo y Acciones Temáticas de la Secretaría Especial de Políticas para las Mujeres

## **CHILE**

### Representante/Representative:

- Germán Guerrero, Embajador de Chile en Cuba

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Jorge Salinas, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Chile en Cuba

## **COLOMBIA**

### Representante/Representative:

- Martha Lucía Vásquez Z., Consejera Presidencial, Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer

## **COSTA RICA**

### Representante/Representative:

- Esmeralda Britton González, Ministra de la Condición de la Mujer, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres

## **CUBA**

### Representante/Representative:

- Yolanda Ferrer Gómez, Secretaria General de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Magalys Arocha, Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas
- Ana Milagros Martínez, Funcionaria de Relaciones Exteriores de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas
- Margarita Valle, Funcionaria, Dirección de Asuntos Multilaterales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Edith Felipe, Funcionaria, Ministerio para la Inversión Extranjera y la Colaboración Económica

## **ECUADOR**

### Representante/Representative:

- Alba Coello, Consejera de la Embajada del Ecuador en Cuba

## **GUATEMALA**

### Representante/Representative:

- Lily Caravantes, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer

## **HONDURAS**

### Representante/Representative:

- Marcela del Mar Suazo, Ministra, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Marilena Arita, Gerente Técnica, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer
- Soledad Funes de Ramírez, Delegada ante la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM)

## **MÉXICO/MEXICO**

### Representante/Representative:

- Patricia Espinosa, Presidenta, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Patricia Wohlers, Directora Relaciones Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres
- Marta Peña Jaramillo, Consejera Política, Embajada de México en Cuba
- Olga Beatriz García Guillén, Cónsul de México en Cuba

## **PARAGUAY**

### Representante/Representative:

- Ana Medina, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales, Secretaría de la Mujer de Paraguay

## **PERÚ/PERU**

### Representante/Representative:

- Ana María Romero-Lozada, Ministra, Ministerio de la Mujer y Desarrollo Social

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Luz Marina Figueroa, Directora Adjunta de la Dirección Nacional de Promoción de la Mujer

## **REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/ DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

### Representante/Representative:

- Yadira Henríquez de Sánchez Baret, Secretaria de Estado, Secretaría de Estado de la Mujer

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Nora Nivar, Subsecretaria, Secretaría de Estado de la Mujer

## **SURINAME**

### Representante/Representative:

- Henry L. MacDonald, Jefe Adjunto de Misión, Embajada de la República de Suriname en los Estados Unidos

## **VENEZUELA**

### Representante/Representative:

- Doris Acevedo, Secretaria General del Instituto Nacional de la Mujer

### Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Reina Arratia, Relaciones Internacionales, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer

**B. Miembros asociados  
Associate Members**

**ANTILLAS NEERLANDESAS/  
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**

Representante/Representative:

- Joan Theodora-Brewster, Ministra de Salud Pública y Desarrollo Social

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Louise de Bode-Olton, agregada para las Antillas Neerlandesas de la Embajada del Reino de los Países Bajos en Cuba
- Vivianne Daflaar, Asesora en políticas de género de la Dirección de Desarrollo Social

**PUERTO RICO**

Representante/Representative:

- M. Dolores Fernós López-Cepero, Procuradora, Oficina Procuradora de las Mujeres

**C. Organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas  
United Nations bodies**

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

- Bruno Moro, Coordinador Residente, La Habana, Cuba

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

- Luis Mora, Asesor Regional en Género y Desarrollo

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- María Neira, Consultora, La Habana, Cuba

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

- Liv Indreiten, Oficial a cargo de Género y Adolescencia, Oficina Regional

Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

- Teresa Rodríguez, Directora Regional del Programa para Centroamérica

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Rosa Inés Antolín, Representante en Cuba

### **D. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies**

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

- Francisco Arias Milla, Representante en Cuba

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

- Gilda Betancourt, UNESCO La Habana

Organización Mundial de la Salud/ Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OMS/OPS)/ World Health Organization/ Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO)

- Patricio Yépez, Representante en Cuba

### **E. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales Other intergovernmental organizations**

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales/ Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)

- Elena Díaz, Profesora Titular, FLACSO-Cuba

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

- Melania Portilla, Coordinadora, Unidad de Actores Sociales

### **F. Invitados especiales Special guests**

- Martha Lomas, Ministra para la Inversión Extranjera y la Colaboración Económica de Cuba (MINVEC)
- Raúl Taladrí, Viceministro para la Inversión Extranjera y la Colaboración Económica de Cuba (MINVEC)

### **G. Secretaría Secretariat**

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

- Daniel S. Blanchard, Secretario de la Comisión
- Sonia Montaña, Jefa, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo

- María Elisa Bernal, Asistente Especial de la Secretaría de la Comisión
- María Nieves Rico, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Diane Alméras, Oficial Asociada de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
- Vivian Milosavljevic, Asistente de Investigación, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo

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

- Roberta Clarke, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales

**Sede Subregional de la CEPAL en México/ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico**

- Ana Sojo, Jefa, Unidad de Desarrollo Social



