

**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



Distr.  
LIMITED

LC/L.1261(CRM.8/5)/Add.1  
4 January 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in  
Latin America and the Caribbean

Lima, Peru, 8-10 February 2000

**ACTIVITIES AT THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGIONAL LEVEL  
RELATING TO THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO  
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
FROM SEPTEMBER 1997 TO DECEMBER 1999**

99-12-1000

## **A. Substantive servicing of intergovernmental meetings**

1. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) convened and provided substantive servicing to the following meetings:

(a) **Second Caribbean subregional teleconference**, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 19 February 1999. The teleconference was convened to provide a forum for Caribbean countries with representatives currently serving Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to update those representatives who had been unable to attend the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers and to discuss and plan the agenda for the eighth session of the Regional Conference. All the member countries whose representatives are serving as Presiding Officers, namely Barbados, Cuba and the Netherlands Antilles, participated in the teleconference.

(b) **First meeting at the technical level of selected ECLAC/CDCC member countries**, Kingston, Jamaica, 13-14 May 1999. The objective of the meeting was to provide technical assistance to selected ECLAC/CDCC member countries in the preparation of their country reports for the mid-term review on the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The meeting brought together technical-level staff from the non-independent countries (British overseas territories) and Jamaica and served as an opportunity to pre-test the indicators under preparation by the ECLAC Women and Development Unit at ECLAC headquarters. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Jamaica, Bureau of Women's Affairs.

(c) **Second meeting at the technical level of selected ECLAC/CDCC member countries**, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20-21 May 1999. The meeting was hosted by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and was attended by technical-level representatives of eight member countries. At the conclusion of this meeting, which was organized along the same lines as the first meeting (Kingston, Jamaica, 13-14 May 1999), the Governments of a total of 13 ECLAC/CDCC member and associate member countries had been serviced through this mechanism. Following this exercise, the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat received 15 country reports which were forwarded to the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

(d) **Ninth Monitoring Committee meeting of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee**, Port-of-Spain, 10-11 May 1999. Governments of member countries were updated on preparatory activities undertaken in the region for the review and appraisal of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and were briefed on upcoming activities.

(e) **Third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women: Review and Appraisal of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women**, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 October 1999. The focus of the Conference was an evaluation of the

implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and, more specifically, an analysis of obstacles to its implementation and the identification of the best approach for moving forward in this respect. Fifteen members and four associate members of CDCC attended the meeting. Upon its conclusion, the Conference adopted the Port-of-Spain Consensus.

2. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat provided substantive servicing to the following meetings:

(a) **Twenty-fifth 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**, Santiago, Chile, 17 November 1997. The secretariat also organized a Caribbean caucus on 18 November 1997.

(b) Seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 1997. The seventh session of the Regional Conference was attended by a large number of ECLAC/CDCC member countries. The Georgetown Consensus, which had been the output of the CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: a Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (Georgetown, Guyana, 6-8 August 1997), served as a direct input to the deliberations of the seventh session of the Regional Conference and to the statement issued by the Conference (see the Santiago Declaration). In addition, the Caribbean Governments represented at the meeting issued a declaration drawing attention to the concerns of women and children in times of natural disasters, with special mention of the case of Montserrat.

(c) **Twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, San Salvador, El Salvador, 2-4 December 1998. During the course of the meeting the secretariat hosted an informal Caribbean caucus to discuss the venue of the next meeting of the Presiding Officers in the Caribbean and the Caribbean's participation in the presentation of papers at the eighth session of the Regional Conference.

(d) **ILO Symposium on Labour Issues in the Context of Economic Integration and Free Trade - A Caribbean Perspective**, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20-22 January 1999. In addition to acting as the rapporteur for the Symposium, a representative of the secretariat participated on a panel organized by the Ministry of Labour of the government of Trinidad and Tobago as part of a forum held concurrently with the symposium. The panel was led by the United States Secretary of Labor, and the secretariat presented a paper entitled, "Emerging gender issues in the subregion relevant to labour, economic integration and free trade".

(e) **Women, Gender and Poverty in the Windward Islands: Stakeholders' Workshop**, Castries, Saint Lucia, 26-27 January 1999. The purpose of this workshop, which was sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women/United Nations Development Programme (UNIFEM/UNDP), was to identify the most effective ways to work towards the eradication of poverty among women employed in the banana industry in the Caribbean

subregion. The workshop sought to obtain inputs from stakeholders regarding the substantive aspects of a project aimed at improving women's economic options against the background of the Platform for Action. The secretariat acted as a resource and rapporteur for the workshop.

(f) **Workshop on reporting procedures in connection with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**, Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 19-21 April 1999. The secretariat provided technical assistance to this UNIFEM/CARICOM-sponsored meeting and acted as a facilitator for the workshop. The aims of the workshop, which reviewed the Convention and its reporting procedures for technical staff of Governments of ECLAC/CDCC member States, were to:

- (i) Increase the participants' knowledge of the Convention and its relevant reporting procedures; and
- (ii) Build confidence in the participants' ability to apply the Convention and fulfil its reporting requirements.

(g) **Meeting of Directors/Coordinators of Women's Bureaux**, Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 22-23 April 1999. At this CARICOM-sponsored meeting, the secretariat addressed the Directors/Coordinators of Women's Bureaux on preparations and requirements for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women of the United Nations.

(h) **Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Gender Statistics**, Georgetown, Guyana, 29-30 April 1999. The Group, which was led by experts in statistics (Directors of Statistics from selected CARICOM countries) and gender issues from the subregion, met to identify priority areas for data collection in the social sector, with emphasis on gender issues, and to determine data needs. The secretariat acted as a resource for the Group.

(i) **Seventh Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 2 June 1999. The meeting heard reports from the specialized agencies in attendance regarding pertinent areas of work. Of particular relevance was the report from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) regarding the conference of the wives of Heads of State which they were supporting as a counterpart meeting to the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference.

(j) **Twenty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-4 June 1999. The secretariat provided an update on the work undertaken to assist ECLAC/CDCC member countries in their preparations for full participation in the mid-term review of the implementation of the Platform for Action and the upcoming eighth session of the Regional Conference.

(k) **Eighth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Santiago, Chile, 9-10 November 1999. The meeting heard reports from specialized agencies in attendance regarding relevant areas of work.

(l) **Twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Santiago, Chile, 11-12 November 1999. The secretariat provided an update on the work undertaken to assist ECLAC/CDCC member countries in their preparations for participation in the mid-term review of the implementation of the Platform for Action and the upcoming eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat also reported on the third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women, held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 October 1999.

### **B. Operational activities**

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has provided advisory services and technical assistance as follows:

(a) To the Governments of the subregion in the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (on-going).

(b) To selected member countries, through the preparation of a study on gender mainstreaming, best practice and constraints. The initial results were presented to the third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women, held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 October 1999.

(c) To the Governments of the subregion in connection with the preparation of country reports as part of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be completed at the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 2000 (May-August 1999).

(d) To the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in relation to its review of statistical needs for gender analysis and mainstreaming (October-November 1998).

(e) To the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in connection with the organization of the National Adolescent Fertility Workshop, the development of follow-up strategies and the implementation of adolescent fertility surveys as part of the preparatory work for studies on this subject (June-August 1998).

(f) To the Government of Grenada in the area of early childbearing and adolescent motherhood (June-August 1998).

(g) To the Government of Suriname in the area of gender mainstreaming (October 1999).

### **C. Other activities**

Presentation of a lecture at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, to an International Relations Postgraduate Student Research Seminar on "Gender and International Relations". The title of the presentation was "The United Nations and World Conferences" (3 March 1999).

Participation in the Training Workshop on Natural Disaster Evaluation according to the ECLAC Methodology (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 14-18 June 1999).

Delivery by the secretariat of the keynote address at the opening of the Workshop in preparation for the Conference on the International Year of Volunteers organized by UNDP (Paramaribo, 19-21 August 1999).

Participation in a UNIFEM workshop on gender and trade (St. Georges, Grenada, 6-7 December 1999).

### **D. Publications**

1. Report of the second Caribbean subregional teleconference of the Board of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CAR/G.559).
2. Report on the first meeting at the technical level of selected ECLAC/CDCC member countries, Kingston, Jamaica, 13-14 May 1999 (draft version).
3. Report on the second meeting at the technical level of selected ECLAC/CDCC member countries, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 20-21 May 1999 (draft version).
4. The Caribbean subregional review and appraisal report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (LC/CAR/G.583).
5. Report of the third Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 October 1999 (LC/CAR/G.584).
6. Achieving gender equality: a preliminary documentation of the use of gender planning as part of the gender mainstreaming process among selected Caribbean countries (LC/CAR/G.585).