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

Lima, Peru, 8-10 February 2000

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE  
EIGHTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

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## **A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

### **1. Mandate and functions**

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and is convened in compliance with the mandates contained in the Regional Plan of Action (1977).<sup>1</sup> The Conference meets periodically at intervals of no more than three years. In accordance with the Plan of Action and the agreements adopted by Governments, it fulfils the following functions:

(a) To determine regional and subregional needs for technical assistance and give support to all United Nations bodies operating in the region to enable them to meet those needs;

(b) To put forward recommendations to Governments and to ECLAC itself based on studies carried out by the secretariat on the most feasible way of implementing the agreements adopted by United Nations regional conferences;

(c) To review and appraise periodically the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies;

(d) To evaluate periodically the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001;

(e) To provide a forum for the exchange of information to facilitate mutual coordination and support for programmes designed to promote the integration of women into the economic and social development process at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share relevant experience.

### **2. Purposes of the session**

The eighth session of the Regional Conference also has the function of evaluating the progress made in the region since the seventh session and since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and of making recommendations as to how to speed up the process of change with regard to the status of women, in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at the sixth session of the Regional Conference (Mar del Plata, September 1994).

In addition, this session of the Conference will serve as the regional preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", which will be held in New York in June 2000.

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

## **B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **1. Election of officers**

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, who will serve as such until new Presiding Officers are chosen at the following session.

In accordance with the criteria established by the Presiding Officers,<sup>2</sup> every effort will be made to ensure that the new Presiding Officers are chosen with due regard for the principles of proper geographic distribution and rotation. The Presiding Officers consider it necessary to raise the subject of regular attendance at meetings as “a commitment that countries must make” if they are to serve on that body.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The delegations will consider the provisional agenda and will organize the work of the Conference.

The Conference will have before it the following provisional agenda for its consideration.<sup>3</sup>

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Activities of the ECLAC secretariat and of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean since the seventh session of the Regional Conference
4. Gender equity for Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of the twenty-first century
5. Human rights and peace for Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of the twenty-first century
6. Consideration and adoption of the Conference agreements
7. Other matters.

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<sup>2</sup> See ECLAC, Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (LC/G.1855), Santiago, Chile, January 1995, chapter E; and the Report of the 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 (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.02), Santiago, Chile, 1983, which recommends the following:

- “(a) to put into practice the principle of rotation of duties of the Presiding Officers among the member countries of ECLA;
- (b) in order to provide greater facility and effectiveness to their functioning, to reduce the number of ... Presiding Officers to the offices of a Chairperson, three Vice Chairpersons and a Rapporteur;
- (c) to seek adequate geographical distribution, including as Presiding Officers representatives of Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Group and the Southern Cone”.

<sup>3</sup> Document LC/L.1283(CRM.8/1), 29 November 1999.

In deciding how to organize its work, the Conference may consider the proposal formulated by the Presiding Officers at their twenty-sixth meeting. At the time it was proposed that they should “continue to use the system of work used to prepare for the seventh session of the Regional Conference...”.<sup>4</sup> In compliance with this agreement, it is suggested that:

(a) In order to facilitate debate on items 4 and 5, two working groups open to all delegations should be formed and should meet in the morning and afternoon of 9 February and in the morning of 10 February. The Conference would then meet in plenary session on 8 February and on 10 February in the afternoon.

(b) In the working groups, Cuba and Mexico should be responsible for the presentation of provisional agenda item 4, while Barbados and Chile would be responsible for the presentation of provisional agenda item 5.

### **3. Activities of the ECLAC secretariat and of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean since the seventh session of the Regional Conference**

The Chairperson will report to the participants on the activities of the Presiding Officers since the seventh session of the Regional Conference.

In addition, the delegations will have before them reports of the five meetings held by the Presiding Officers during their term of office.<sup>5</sup>

The ECLAC secretariat will report to the delegations on its activities from 1 September 1997 to 30 August 1999. The delegations will have before them the corresponding activities report.<sup>6</sup>

The participants will also be provided with the document “Activities at the Caribbean subregional level relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 September 1997 to 30 August 1999” (LC/L.1261(CRM.8/5)/Add.1).

### **4. Gender equity for Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of the twenty-first century**

The ECLAC secretariat will present to the plenary session a summary of the working document entitled “The challenge of gender equity and human rights on the threshold of the twenty-first century” (LC/L.1295(CRM.8/3)), with special emphasis on the chapter dealing with the issue of gender equity.

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<sup>4</sup> Report of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1133(MDM.26/3)/Rev.1), ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, September 1998, paragraph 29, agreement (f).

<sup>5</sup> See ECLAC reports on the following meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference: twenty-fifth (LC/L.1122(MDM.25/2)); twenty-sixth (LC/L.1133(MDM.26/3)); twenty-seventh (LC/L.1188(MDM.27/4)); twenty-eighth (LC/L.1235(MDM.28/3)); and twenty-ninth (LC/L.1298(MDM.29/3)).

<sup>6</sup> Activities of the ECLAC secretariat from 1 September 1997 to 30 August 1999 relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1261(CRM.8/5)).

In keeping with the method used for the organization of the Conference's work, this item will be examined in greater depth in the working group, where a presentation will be made by Cuba and Mexico.

### **5. Human rights and peace for Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of the twenty-first century**

The working document entitled “The challenge of gender equity and human rights on the threshold of the twenty-first century” will be analysed by the ECLAC secretariat with special emphasis on the issue of human rights, peace and violence.

In keeping with the method used for the organization of the Conference's work, this item will be examined in greater depth in the working group, where a presentation will be made by Barbados and Chile.

### **6. Consideration and adoption of the Conference agreements**

The proposals that will be submitted to the Conference for consideration will be aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Regional Programme of Action.

### **7. Other matters**