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AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



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**REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER  
BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES TO  
PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO LATIN AMERICAN  
AND CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT**

(Santiago, Chile, 15 July 1998)

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

### **Mandate**

1. The sixth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on Future Activities to Promote the Integration of Women into Latin American and Caribbean Development was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) pursuant to the Regional Plan of Action adopted at the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, Cuba, in 1977.

### **Place and date**

2. In fulfilment of the aforementioned mandate, the sixth Meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on Future Activities to Promote the Integration of Women into Latin American and Caribbean Development was held in Santiago, Chile, on 18 and 21 November 1997.

### **Attendance**

3. The following bodies, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system were represented at the meeting: United Nations Population Fund, International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences and the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States.

## **B. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES**

4. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC reported that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their twenty-sixth meeting, had asked ECLAC, in its capacity as secretariat for the Conference, to act as a clearing house for information on the development of indicators of the situation of women to facilitate evaluation of compliance with the Platform for Action emanating from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.

5. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) suggested that more time should be spent at meetings of the Presiding Officers on the presentation of reports from bodies and agencies of the United Nations system. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said that it would be helpful for the inter-agency meetings to be held prior to the meetings of the Presiding Officers.
6. The Coordinator for Mexico and Central America of the Women and Development Unit suggested that the reports should also be sent to the relevant government agencies, to enable them to keep abreast of the work being done in other countries of the region and consider initiating similar activities.
7. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit recalled the problems the agencies had experienced in gaining a hearing at meetings of the Presiding Officers and noted that the present periodic encounters represented progress in that regard; at all events, it was the responsibility of the secretariat to create an adequate mechanisms for the participation of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system.
8. The representative of UNFPA expressed concern about what she considered to be the inadequacies of the activities in follow-up to the Conference in Beijing, especially with regard to the development of indicators. The representative of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) referred to the problems inherent in the elaboration of indicators measuring the achievement of the goals set forth in the Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action because of the difficulties involved in quantifying them; she pointed out that better use could be made of conventional indicators and suggested that the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system should analyse the progress already made.
9. One way of analysing such progress would be to evaluate the level of gender equity on the institutional level. She also suggested the possibility of organizing meetings of advisers on gender issues from all the agencies conducting activities in the region and stressed the need for training them in the elaboration of indicators.
10. On the subject of the development of indicators, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proposed that official and non-official channels should be sought for communicating and exchanging information on indicators. In addition, he suggested that a seminar or meeting of experts should be held on the topic and said that FLACSO could make a positive contribution in that regard.

### C. AGREEMENTS

11. The participants at the meeting agreed that:
  1. The next meeting of specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system should be held prior to the meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional conference, to facilitate the subsequent transmittal of its conclusions to the Governments;

2. The specialized agencies should present written reports making special reference to follow-up of United Nations global summits and conferences and to indicators for measuring fulfilment of the agreements emanating from them;
3. The agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system should collaborate with ECLAC in developing indicators and bringing them to the attention of Governments.