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

Montevideo, 25-28 October 2016

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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 for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977). 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- To review and appraise periodically the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies.
- To review periodically fulfilment of the regional agenda on gender affairs as set forth in the regional consensuses adopted at previous sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information to facilitate mutual coordination and support for programmes designed to promote the integration of women and gender-based analysis into the economic and social development process at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share relevant experiences.

2. Purposes of the session

At its thirteenth session, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is called upon to review the implementation of commitments undertaken on the regional agenda on gender affairs as set forth in the regional consensuses adopted at previous sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, the Conference will examine achievements and challenges in the region in terms of attaining gender equality, in the context of sustainable development.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the thirteenth 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, every effort will be made to ensure that the new Presiding Officers are chosen with due regard for the principles of adequate geographical distribution and rotation.

The Presiding Officers consider it necessary to refer to 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 have before them for consideration and adoption the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Presentation of the position paper *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*.
4. High-level panel: Gender equality at the centre of sustainable development.
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
6. Other matters.

The Conference will organize its work in accordance with the proposal made by the secretariat and adopted at the fifty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers. The programme for the thirteenth session includes the election of the Presiding Officers, the presentation of the position paper and the reading of the document submitted by civil society. There will also be six panel discussions and a round table entitled “Equality and sustainable development: the future agenda for women's rights”. The session will conclude with the consideration and adoption of the Montevideo Strategy.

3. Presentation of the position paper *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*

The secretariat will present the position paper *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*, in accordance with the theme adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at their fifty-first meeting,¹ and the annotated index adopted by the Presiding Officers at their fifty-third meeting in 2016.² The document prepared by the Division for Gender Affairs focuses on the synergies between the regional agenda on gender affairs, which includes the commitments undertaken by the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean regarding women's rights and autonomy and gender equality over the course of twelve sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (from the first session in Havana in

¹ See Report of the fifty-first session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3976).

² See Report of the fifty-third session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.4176).

1977 to the twelfth session in Santo Domingo in 2013), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The document presents the current situation as regards women's autonomy in the physical, economic and decision-making dimensions and proposes inclusive and innovative public policies for gender equality.

The Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean analysed and commented on the position paper during three preparatory meetings,³ as agreed at the fifty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers.

Working document:

- Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda (LC/G.2686(CRM.13/3))

4. High-level panel: Gender equality at the centre of sustainable development

The delegations will analyse the issues of the thirteenth session of the Conference in the framework of six panel discussions and a round table, each addressing a main theme of the position paper. The debate on each of the panels will open with presentations by special guests representing the those engaged in the formulation of public policies on equality, civil society and academia. This will be followed by a discussion, in which, in accordance with the rules of procedure of ECLAC, the representatives of the member States will make their statements first, after which the floor will be opened to other participants.

5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference

Under this agenda item, proposals regarding the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy will be put to the delegations for their consideration.

6. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the delegations may consider any other matter they deem appropriate.

³ Mexico City (2-3 June 2016), Santiago (4-5 July 2016) and Port of Spain (26-27 July 2016).