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

**Montevideo, 25 October 2016**

## CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK.....	1-10	3
	Place and date of the meeting.....	1	3
	Attendance .....	2-9	3
	Chair.....	10	4
B.	AGENDA.....	11	4
C.	PROCEEDINGS .....	12-29	5
Annex	List of participants .....	-	9

## 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 fifty-fourth meeting in Montevideo on 25 October 2016.

### Attendance<sup>1</sup>

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Nicaragua, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Spain and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

4. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. A representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) attended from the United Nations Secretariat.

6. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

7. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank.

8. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB).

9. Representatives of non-governmental organizations and special guests also attended.

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<sup>1</sup> See annex.

### **Chair and Vice-Chairs**

10. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women was as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Dominican Republic
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Brazil Chile Costa Rica Cuba El Salvador Jamaica Mexico Panama Paraguay Peru Puerto Rico Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Uruguay

### **B. AGENDA**

11. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Review of the documentation to be presented at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Organization of work during the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Preliminary information on the composition of the incoming Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Other matters.

### C. PROCEEDINGS

12. The meeting was opened by Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, who welcomed the participants of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and stressed the significance for Uruguay, and particularly for Montevideo, of hosting the event.

13. Janet Camilo, Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

14. The Chair of the Presiding Officers reported on the activities carried out in 2013-2016, including five meetings of the Presiding Officers. She underscored the work of Minister Alejandrina Germán, who had displayed outstanding leadership in chairing the Conference from October 2013 until her appointment as Minister for Higher Education of the Dominican Republic in August 2016.

15. She said that at the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers there had been a discussion about the gains made and challenges faced in the 20 years of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995); during the discussion significant legal and institutional advances had been highlighted, particularly with respect to gender mainstreaming. She stressed the progress reflected in the passing of laws on gender-based violence and on quotas or parity in political participation, and in the advances in women's access to education and participation in paid work, but she also mentioned the invisibility of unpaid work and the need to develop care services.

16. She then spoke of the reflection on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and their link to the regional gender agenda during the fifty-second and fifty-third meetings of the Presiding Officers. She recalled that the countries had reaffirmed their commitment to mainstreaming a transformative gender perspective in all the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, indicators and implementation mechanisms, and to redoubling efforts to ensure that the indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals reflected the inequalities between men and women, as well as to incorporating gender equality into national and sectoral development plans. She also emphasized the commitment to coordinating the work of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean with that of the other ECLAC subsidiary bodies.

17. Next, she underscored the importance of promoting the implementation of the Santo Domingo Consensus, which included an agenda for gender equality that paid special attention to new information and communications technologies and that had maintained the focus on women's economic autonomy as a crucial element of equality. She also reported on the activities carried out in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and congratulated ECLAC on the work done. Lastly, she stressed that the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference would bring the region closer to achieving sustainable development, which had to be accompanied by gender equality.

18. The Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed gratitude for the Chair's report and highlighted the civil society initiative to create a regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements in coordination with mechanisms for the advancement of women, a proposal included in the documentation distributed to the delegations.

19. The representative of Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur presented the civil society initiative and made reference to the 40 years of the regional gender agenda, from which she highlighted the search for justice for women and the role of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She explained the proposal to create a regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements in coordination with mechanisms for the advancement of women and expressed her concern about the difficulties facing the region in that area. She mentioned the contribution of the "Magaly Pineda" forum of feminist organizations held on 24 October 2016 and said that the fund proposal harboured potential for the promotion of sustainability and the sharing of successful strategies with a view to fostering cooperation between the State and society, and to strengthening the regional identity and the work of civil society in ensuring accountability and promoting legal gains.

Review of the documentation to be presented at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

20. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC acknowledged the efforts of the Dominican Republic as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean over the previous three years. Next, she examined the documentation provided to the delegations and referred to *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*,<sup>2</sup> the position paper prepared on the basis of the theme adopted at the fifty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women and the annotated index adopted at the fifty-third meeting of the Presiding Officers held in January 2016. She said that the document highlighted the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the regional gender agenda, as well as the commitments made by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to women's rights and autonomy at the 12 sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held so far.

21. Next, she spoke of the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, which would be considered by the Regional Conference with a view to its adoption. She said that to design the project of the Montevideo Strategy, ECLAC had carried out a systematic review of the language used over the previous 40 years in the agreements that comprised the regional gender agenda, taking into account the socioeconomic context and discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals with the governments of the region and civil society, and on this basis had identified the agreements linked to the different implementation pillars and the measures corresponding to each pillar.

22. She pointed out that the Montevideo Strategy had been analysed by the governments of the region during the three subregional meetings held in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as at a meeting with specialists of the region, and that it incorporated the contributions from governments and United Nations bodies.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/G.2686(CRM.13/3).

23. She also stressed the importance of joint efforts and praised the work reflected in *40 years of the regional gender agenda*,<sup>3</sup> which combined the agreements adopted at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, from the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Havana, 1977) to that moment. She emphasized the significance of the Montevideo Strategy as another building block of the gender agenda in the region.

24. Next, she mentioned the other documents that had been disseminated to the countries in electronic format, prepared by the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC, that addressed the reality of the region, particularly for women, and that provided elements for the discussion and formulation of policies for gender equality and women's autonomy.

Organization of work during the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

25. The Chief of the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC described the activities carried out in preparation for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference and hailed the presence at the opening session of the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, as well as of Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

26. She outlined the profiles of the panelists and the statements to be made at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference and in the high-level panel, the six thematic panels and the round table included in the programme, and stressed the effort to ensure balanced composition. Lastly, she provided a description of the scheduled side events.

Preliminary information on the composition of the incoming Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 5)

27. The Officer in Charge of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission reported the countries that had expressed an interest in serving as Presiding Officers, namely: Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico and Suriname.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

28. The Chief of the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC reminded the countries of the request for reports to include two or three challenges and policies, projects or programmes that were effective in guaranteeing the rights of women in the region.

29. In concluding, the Chair of the Presiding Officers wished the Government of Uruguay success in hosting the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference and in its work as Chair of the Presiding Officers, and underscored the importance of those processes in strengthening government agendas focused on closing gender gaps and achieving the empowerment of women and girls.

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<sup>3</sup> LC/G.2682.





## Annex

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- Adriana Bentancor, Asesora, Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería (MIEM), email: adriana.bentancor@miem.gub.uy
- Rossana González, Coordinadora de Desarrollo Sostenible y Equidad de Género, Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Minería (MIEM), email: rossana.gonzalez@miem.gub.uy
- María de la Luz Garrido, Coordinadora de Comunicación y Campañas, Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM), email: lgarrido@cotidianomujer.org.uy
- Cristina Mansilla Decesari, Primera Secretaria, Dirección General para Asuntos Técnico- Administrativos, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: cristina.mansilla@mrree.gub.uy

**VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)**Representante/Representative:

- Blanca Eekhout Gómez, Ministra del Poder Popular de la Mujer y la Igualdad de Género, email: minmujer@minmujer.gob.ve



**B. Miembros asociados  
Associate members**

**ISLAS TURCAS Y CAICOS/TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

Representante/Representative:

- George Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation and Communication, email: georgelightbourne56@hotmail.com

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Carolyn Dickenson, Director of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Transportation and Communication, email: cdickenson@gov.tc

**PUERTO RICO**

Representante/Representative:

- Wanda Vázquez Garced, Procuradora de las Mujeres, Oficina de la Procuradora de las Mujeres, email: wvazquez@mujer.pr.gov

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**C. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas  
United Nations Secretariat**

**Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

- Pedro Vera-Pineda, Asesor Regional de Género y Derechos de las Mujeres, Panamá, email: pvera-pineda@ohchr.org

**D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas  
United Nations bodies**

**Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres  
(ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
(UN-Women)**

- Luiza Carvalho, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe, Panamá, email: luiza.carvalho@unwomen.org
- Lara Blanco, Directora Regional Adjunta para las Américas y el Caribe, Panamá, email: rosario.rodriguez@unwomen.org

- Ana Güezmes, Representante en México, email: [alynn.cappon@unwomen.org](mailto:alynn.cappon@unwomen.org)
- María Alejandra Machicado Terán, Representante en Guatemala, email: [maria.machicado@unwomen.org](mailto:maria.machicado@unwomen.org)
- Ana Elena Badilla, Representante en El Salvador, email: [ana.badilla@unwomen.org](mailto:ana.badilla@unwomen.org)
- Patricia Fernández-Pacheco, Representante Adjunta en Colombia, email: [patricia.pacheco@unwomen.org](mailto:patricia.pacheco@unwomen.org)
- María Inés Salamanca, Coordinadora de Programa, Chile, email: [maria.salamanca@unwomen.org](mailto:maria.salamanca@unwomen.org)

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

- Shelly Abdool, Asesora Regional de Género, email: [sabdool@unicef.org](mailto:sabdool@unicef.org)
- Patricia Muriel Carrasco, Sección Género, Panamá, email: [pmuriel@unicef.org](mailto:pmuriel@unicef.org)

**Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- Sheila Roseau, Directora Regional Adjunta para América Latina y el Caribe, Jamaica, email: [roseau@unfpa.org](mailto:roseau@unfpa.org)
- Neus Bernabeu, Asesora Regional de Género y Juventud, Panamá, email: [bernabeu@unfpa.org](mailto:bernabeu@unfpa.org)

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

- Lidia Brito, Directora, Oficina Regional de Ciencias para América Latina y el Caribe, Uruguay, email: [l.brito@unesco.org](mailto:l.brito@unesco.org)

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

- Denise Cook, Coordinadora Residente en el Uruguay, email: [denise.cook@oneun.org](mailto:denise.cook@oneun.org)
- Eugenia Piza-López, Líder Práctica y Programa de Género para América Latina y el Caribe, email: [eugenia.piza-lopez@undp.org](mailto:eugenia.piza-lopez@undp.org)

**E. Organismos especializados  
Specialized agencies**

**Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- Gerardina González-Marroquin, Directora Regional Adjunta para América Latina y el Caribe, Perú, email: [gonzalezg@ilo.org](mailto:gonzalezg@ilo.org)
- María José Chamorro, Especialista en Temas de Género, Costa Rica, email: [chamorro@ilo.org](mailto:chamorro@ilo.org)
- Anaclara Matosas, Responsable de Gestión del Conocimiento, Uruguay, email: [Matosas@ilo.org](mailto:Matosas@ilo.org)

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

- Vivian Salta, Asistente de Programa y Punto Focal de Género, Uruguay, email: [vivian.salta@fao.org](mailto:vivian.salta@fao.org)

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

- Lilia Jara, Asesora Regional de Género, Etnicidad y Salud, email: [jaralili@paho.org](mailto:jaralili@paho.org)
- Rodolfo Gómez, Asesor Regional de Salud Sexual y Reproductiva, Centro Latinoamericano de Perinatología (CLAP), email: [gomezr@paho.org](mailto:gomezr@paho.org)

**Banco Mundial/World Bank**

- Matilde Bordon, Representante Residente, Uruguay, email: [mbordon@worldbank.org](mailto:mbordon@worldbank.org)

## **F. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations**

### **Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

- Andrew Morrison, Jefe División de Género y Diversidad, Estados Unidos, email: amorrison@iadb.org

### **CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina/CAF-Development Bank of Latin America**

- María Violeta Domínguez, Ejecutiva, República Bolivariana de Venezuela, email: mdominguez@caf.com
- Elena Cardona, Ejecutiva Principal, Unidad de Inclusión y Equidad de Género, Uruguay, email: ecadrona@caf.com

### **Facultad latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)/Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences**

- Carmen Beramendi, Directora, Programa FLACSO-Uruguay, email: cberamendi@flacso.edu.uy

### **Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

- Keiko Nowacka, Gender Coordinator, Francia, email: keiko.nowacka@oecd.org

### **Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)**

- Carmen Moreno, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres, email: cmoreno@oas.org
- Leonel Briozzo, Consultor, Secretaría de Acceso a Derecho y Equidad, email: leobriozzo@hotmail.com
- Ricardo Domínguez, Representante en el Uruguay, email: oasuruguay@oas.org

### **Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

- Diego Beltrand, Director Regional para América del Sur de la Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM), email: dbeltrand@iom.int

### **Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/Ibero-American Secretariat**

- Claudia Briones, Especialista en Género, España, email: cbriones@segib.org

## **G. Secretaría Secretariat**

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

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