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REPORT OF THE TWELFTH 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

(Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7 and 8 May 1991)

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

IDB	International Development Bank
IACW/OAS	Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States
FLACSO	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences
ILO	International Labour Organisation
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraph</u>	<u>Page</u>
A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK . . .	1-16	1
Place and date	1-2	1
Attendance	3	1
Adoption of the agenda	4	1
Opening meeting	5-12	2
Adoption of the report	13	3
Closing meeting	14-16	3
B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	17-69	4
Progress report on the period between 1 November 1990 and 30 April 1991 (agenda item 2)	19-53	4
Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 16 to 19 September 1991 (agenda item 3)	54-62	11
Other matters (agenda item 4)	63-69	13
Annex: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS		17

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date

1. In accordance with paragraph 88 (2) of the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development, adopted at the eleventh special meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), it is incumbent upon the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women to be the link between Governments and the secretariat of ECLAC in the field of women's integration into development.

2. In compliance with this mandate, the Presiding Officers elected at the fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean held their twelfth meeting on 7 and 8 May 1991 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by participants from the following countries represented by Presiding Officers: Argentina, Cuba, Guatemala, Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Aura Azucena Bolaños de Aguilera, Second Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Guatemala. Ms. Teresa Cabrera de Torres, Director-General of the Women's Sector in the Ministry of Family Affairs of Venezuela, served as Rapporteur. The meeting was also attended by observers from UNDP, IDB and IACW/OAS. A complete list of participants has been annexed to this report.

Adoption of the agenda

4. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda for their twelfth meeting:

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda
2. Report on the activities carried out from 1 November 1990 to 30 April 1991

- Report of the Chairman
 - Report of the other Officers
 - Report on activities of the secretariat
3. Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 16 to 19 September 1991):
- Discussion on the provisional agenda of the Conference
 - Discussion on the inclusion of issues relating to women in ECLAC's proposal on changing production patterns with social equity
 - Preparations for the fifth Regional Conference
4. Other matters.

Opening meeting

5. At the opening meeting the floor was taken by Mr. Guido Di Tella, Foreign Minister of Argentina, and by the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. The Foreign Minister of Argentina said that his presence at the meeting witnessed to the importance which his Government attached to the question of discrimination against women, which harms societies by depriving them of valuable resources. He also referred to the participation of women in the labour force, which, in so far as they were largely to be found in the informal sector of the economy, was just one more proof of the discrimination practised against them.

7. He said that the wasted talents and abilities of a large percentage of humankind, which continued to characterize the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, constituted a substantial obstacle to the incorporation of the region into the modern world.

8. He concluded his intervention by expressing his best wishes for the success of the work to be accomplished at the twelfth Meeting of the Presiding Officers.

9. The Secretary of the Commission opened his statement by thanking the Government of Argentina for its cordial reception of the participants in the meeting and also by warmly welcoming Ms. Aura Azucena Bolaños de Aguilera to her new role as Chairman.

10. Although the preceding meeting of the Presiding Officers had been held only four months previously, much progress had been made since then in connection with the tasks relating to the preparation

of the fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in the Netherlands Antilles in September 1991. The preparations were proceeding very positively and were well supported by the host Government and by public opinion.

11. He went on to refer to the documentation prepared by the secretariat for the current meeting, indicating that the Presiding Officers were being seized with the first draft of a regional position paper, in which questions related to women were linked to the proposal on changing production patterns with social equity adopted by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean at the most recent session of ECLAC. He referred in particular to two documents prepared specifically in connection with the status of women in the Caribbean, which would soon be distributed to the Presiding Officers. The information available on the status of women in Central America had also been updated. The response received from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies had been excellent.

12. He ended his statement by indicating that during the meeting the secretariat would add to the information to which he had referred and by expressing the hope that the current meeting would be a time of tremendous productivity, in accordance with the tradition established at other meetings of the Presiding Officers.

Adoption of the report

13. The draft report of the meeting was unanimously adopted by the representatives.

Closing meeting

14. At the closing meeting, the Secretary of the Commission, after expressing his gratitude for the hospitality offered by the host country, said that the meeting had been characterized by intensive and fruitful work in preparation for the fifth Regional Conference, which was tremendously encouraging for the secretariat. He undertook to do what was necessary to see that the documentation prepared in preparation for the Conference was sent in good time not only to the Ministers of Foreign Relations, who constituted the normal channel of communication between ECLAC and the Governments, but also to the focal points on the advancement of women, as requested by the Presiding Officers.

15. After thanking the secretariat for its help to the Presiding Officers, the representative of the host country said her delegation had profited tremendously from the experience of working with the delegations of the other Presiding Officers during their

term of office and expressed the hope that that experience would continue.

16. The Chairman thanked all the Presiding Officers and expressed special gratitude to the delegation of Argentina for hosting the meeting. She also thanked ECLAC and said her Government was firmly committed to the tasks related to the preparation of the fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

B. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

17. The Under-Secretary for Women's Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship of Argentina, thanked the delegations of the Presiding Officers for attending the meeting, which was opening on Eva Perón's birthday, a day of great significance for the women of Argentina. The best tribute to her memory would be a job well done, which would constitute a palpable contribution to a better quality of life for the women of the region.

18. The Resident Representative of UNDP greeted the meeting of the Presiding Officers and indicated that questions related to women were of great importance to UNDP, in that they were the subject of one of its six priority activities. He also noted that all UNDP project proposals had to include an analysis of the impact the project might have on women. Finally, he drew attention to the existence within UNDP of a Division for Women in Development and called attention to the role of UNIFEM as a body for financing projects relating to women.

Progress report on the period between 1 November 1990 and 30 April 1991 (agenda item 2)

a) Report of the Chairman

19. The Chairman opened her report by greeting the representatives of the host country of the meeting and by acknowledging the work performed by Ms. Raquel Blandón during the time she had served as Chairman, in her capacity as representative of the Government of Guatemala.

20. She then gave a perspective of the context in which policies and strategies for the promotion and participation of women were carried out in Central America, drawing attention to the following events held during the first three months of 1991:

- Meeting of the technical secretariats of the First Ladies of the countries of the subregion for the purpose of making preparations for the forthcoming meeting of First Ladies of Central America.
- Event organized by UNIFEM on training in the planning of projects related to women, held in Costa Rica.
- Meeting on women, health and legislation organized by PAHO and held at San Salvador.

21. She then referred to the progress made in Guatemala in matters relating to women since the government of Mr. Jorge Serrano Elías had taken office. That progress included the establishment of a Department of Labour, Women and Social Security and the fact that, for the first time in the country's history, a woman was serving as President of the Congress; that a Congressional Committee on Women's Affairs had been established; that defence of women's rights had been institutionalized within the framework of the Commission on Human Rights and that the National Women's Bureau had been strengthened. With regard to the Bureau, she said its coverage had been extended to the city of Quetzaltenango, where a permanent representative of governmental and non-governmental organizations had been appointed to the Assembly of Delegates and a Board of Directors had also been established.

22. She also noted the continuation of the programmes sponsored by UNICEF, UNIFEM, PAHO and FLACSO with regard to the advancement of women, self-esteem and the impact had by education designed to explain how stereotypes operated within the family. She also praised the policy and strategy proposals designed for women and especially the projects relating to their incorporation in rural and urban development.

23. She referred in particular to the concern shown by the Ministry of Labour with regard to adherence to the provisions made in the labour codes with regard to women, especially in so far as the subcontracting industry was concerned. That industry employed close to 50 000 women, and a number of subcontractors were not in compliance with the labour laws and were treating their employees badly.

24. With regard to the stabilization policies applied in the country, she said action had been taken to make social compensation policies directly favouring women part of the social contract. That action had made it possible for the sectors parties to the social contract (private employers, workers and the State) to assume their responsibilities with regard to women.

25. Finally, she mentioned the hopes held for the achievement of progress in the national dialogue for peace.

b) Report of the other Presiding Officers and statements by representatives of agencies

26. The representative of Argentina emphasized the significance of the creation of the Council on the Coordination of Public Policies on women established in March 1991 by means of a presidential decree and now in the process of being set up. The objective of the Council was to establish national policies on women in coordination with bodies at provincial level, ministries, the legislature and non-governmental organizations.

27. She also stressed foreign debt-swapping as promoted by UNIFEM in order to finance small projects at a cost of US\$5 million. Those projects would be carried out in five provinces where Women's Bureaux were located and consisted in programmes aimed at changing the economic situation of women.

28. She also placed special emphasis on the initiation (or on the strengthening and continuation) of small production projects operated by women. United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, bodies with links to OAS, and non-governmental bodies would be approached in order to obtain financing in that regard.

29. After warmly greeting and expressing her gratitude to the host country and to the ECLAC secretariat, the representative of the Netherlands Antilles noted the recent creation in her country of a group of high-level inter-agency group of experts, which would be responsible for working within the individual ministries to appraise the social and legal status of women and the family. The fact that the subject of women and that of the family were viewed in combination showed her government's conviction that women as such constituted a social and moral unit along with the family members for whom they were responsible.

30. She also noted the creation, within the National Parliament, of a commission to deal with legislative matters relating to women. She added that a short time ago research had been carried out within her country under the auspices of ILO with a view to making a comparative study of the need of workers in the labour market for support services during their working hours, in areas such as child care or care of other family members unable to look after themselves. It had been shown that the majority of women workers needed some kind of help in caring for their relatives during the time they were at work.

31. Consequently, in anticipation of the International Year of the Family, her Government considered it necessary first to change its labour legislation in such a way as to ensure that the working hours of women did not coincide with the hours when their children were at home and second to bring the work week down to under 40 hours, with no loss of social benefits.

32. Finally, she said that the preparations being made for the fifth Regional Conference, which would be held in her country, constituted a very useful and necessary exercise, which had resulted in a general awareness in her country of the need for women to advance and had made it possible to realize many objectives which would otherwise have been difficult to achieve.

33. Another representative of the Netherlands Antilles, acting at the request of the Prime Minister of her country, introduced a document describing the position which characterized the Caribbean in so far as questions relating to women were concerned. That document contained a short description of the socio-cultural and economic context of those questions, touching upon the political participation of women, the crisis and the effects of structural adjustment policies on women. One section concerned the issue of social integration and covered questions relating to the family, education and health; another section dealt with the economic integration of women and included an analysis of employment, the informal sector and access to credit. Since all of those questions related to urban women, a section on rural women had also been included, as had sections relating to young women and to planning, legislation and participation, which were particularly important subjects in the Caribbean subregion.

34. The representative of Cuba expressed gratitude to the host Government and noted the sisterly spirit which had developed during the time the Presiding Officers of the fourth Conference had been working together. She expressed gratification at the addition of the new Chairman to the team of Presiding Officers.

35. She agreed with the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles as to the burden which the double work load imposed on women. That question was now under review in her country and was related to another investigation being made into women's occupancy of posts at director level. Often it was the women themselves who imposed restrictions on their own employment possibilities owing to their family obligations. She also noted that a statistical study on Cuban women being carried out as part of a regional project conducted by FLACSO together with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Spain was nearing completion and said that, thanks to the data collected in the census to be held the following year, it would be possible to solve the problem of lack of current data, which now constituted an obstacle to that study.

36. She stressed the participation of the Federation of Cuban Women in the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and in the second Venezuelan Congress on Women, at which views had been exchanged with various delegations from other countries concerning topics relating to women.

37. With regard to projects, she reported progress in the preparation and presentation of projects aimed at the generation of

income for women while at the same time contributing to the success of the country's economic development plans. She also mentioned projects related to the health of women, especially those aimed at training sanitary brigades, in cooperation with PAHO and non-governmental organizations.

38. The representative of Venezuela said that in order to evaluate what had been achieved in connection with the advancement of women, consideration should be given to aspects of the struggle in that connection. In that respect, she described the activities which since 1975 had been carried out in Venezuela, drawing attention to the first Venezuelan Congress on Women held that year within the framework of United Nations activities in that connection. A tremendous effort had been made to continue such activities, which, together with study and discussion, had made it possible to take various forms of action to upgrade and transform the role of women in society. She drew attention to the meetings held recently in preparation for the second Venezuelan Congress on Women, which had been held in her country on the topics of education, community, health, legislation, environment, small industry, handicrafts and cooperatives, critical poverty and labour and the power structure of trade unions and professional associations.

39. The second Venezuelan Congress on Women had been organized in line with a methodology in which modules were divided into subtopics, including the role of women in the power structure, women and civic life, women and the quality of living, women and political power, women and education, women and communications, women and economic power, women and the power exerted by trade unions and professional associations, women and violence and the role of women at the international and juridical levels. The conclusions of the Congress had been presented to the President of Venezuela at a workshop.

40. Matters on which agreement had been reached at the Congress included the creation of a National Council on Women as an institution for policy design (this decision would be submitted to the legislative branch for adoption as a law of the Republic); a review of the country's legislation by the Bicameral Commission on Women for the purpose of eliminating elements which discriminated against women; the extension to the entire country of the programme for the provision of centres providing integral health care for women; the development of the potential of indigenous rural women and women engaged in the fishing industry, as part of the integrated social development policy; the operation of social programmes; the creation of committees of overseers to defend the rights of workers; the design of a programme for training in the labour movement and the establishment of a movement to protest against the abuse found in the communications media, the contents of whose messages often gave rise to distorted stereotypes.

41. The representative of IACW/OAS expressed her gratitude for having been invited to the meeting and said she hoped that it would provide an occasion for a relaxed dialogue with the representatives of other regional bodies. For the information of the participants, she submitted a plan of action relating to women and work ("Confronting the crisis") which had been adopted by IACW/OAS within the framework of the plan of action on full and egalitarian participation of women by the year 2000 (another IACW/OAS instrument).

42. IACW/OAS would also carry out consultations at the Latin American level on topics relating women, environment and sustainable development strategies. These would be preceded by consultations at national level, in an effort to alert the public to the problem.

43. Plans had been made for a meeting of women jurists to be held in Venezuela for the purpose of formulating a convention on the elimination of violence against women -- a problem which had assumed alarming proportions.

44. Pointing out that the national focal points with which ECLAC was in communication were to a large extent the same as those used by IACW/OAS, she appealed for effective coordination of ECLAC/OAS activities within the individual countries of the region.

45. The representative of IDB referred to IDB projects which related to the concerns voiced by the delegations attending the meeting. She drew attention in particular to the promotion of micro-businesses established for the purpose of bringing women into the formal production process and creating more reliable job alternatives for them and for young people. She also referred to projects relating to viable or appropriate local-cost technologies and ended by saying that IDB not only supported debt-swapping projects but all proposals relating to the particular problems of women.

c) Report on activities carried out by the secretariat

46. The Chief of the Women and Development Unit of the ECLAC Social Development Division noted that during the period under review, the activities performed by her unit had been carried out within the framework of preparations for the fifth Regional Conference. The work done had therefore consisted in the collection and analysis of information from countries in the United Nations system. Help had been sought from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, which had responded by sending books and other publications. In general, the Unit had continued working closely with other parts of the system in the performance of common and complementary activities.

47. The first draft of the position paper to be submitted to the fifth Conference had been prepared, and work had begun on documents relating specifically to the Caribbean and Central American subregions.

48. The secretariat also reported that work had been done in connection with the participation of women at various levels of the informal sector. That subject had, by consensus, been placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions, was supported by INSTRAW and could constitute a topic for interregional activity. The ECLAC Women and Development Unit had been appointed to serve as a focal point of activities in that regard.

49. The representative of the ECLAC Division of Operations noted the close cooperation between his Division and the Women and Development Unit in the preparation of project proposals and in the financing and execution of projects. Projects with extrabudgetary financing had to fit within the ECLAC programme of work and be regional in scope and action-oriented. Extrabudgetary financing was hard to come by since donors did not always consider that projects relating to women had much priority.

50. He then gave the Presiding Officers a progress report on the projects in execution and on proposals which were being prepared and processed. A brief feasibility study financed by the Government of Germany on women in micro-businesses in the informal sector in Mexico and Venezuela had been completed.

51. The implementation of a project financed by the Government of the Netherlands on legal and institutional improvements needed in order to incorporate women into development in Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay was now in full swing.

52. Projects in the proposal formulation and financial management stages covered the following subjects: facilitation of the productive work of women heads of household in selected Central American countries, adolescent motherhood, female headship of household and intergenerational poverty, and women in the informal sector of the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean (information for policy formulation).

53. He closed his statement by noting that projects executed by ECLAC complemented and supported national activities and said that ECLAC could provide assistance in the dissemination and discussion of national experiences and in the preparation of common positions with regard to problems which made it difficult to integrate women into the development of their countries.

Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 16 to 19 September 1991 (agenda item 3)

a) Provisional agenda for the Conference

54. A discussion was held under this item, and the following provisional agenda was adopted by consensus:

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Report of the Chairman of the fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the work accomplished since the fourth Regional Conference, including recommendations by the Presiding Officers
4. Report by the ECLAC secretariat on activities carried out since the fourth Regional Conference and introduction of the documentation prepared
5. Report on countries
6. Assessment and recommendations by the fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean
7. Changing production patterns with social equity and the integration of women into the development of Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Preparations for the sixth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean
9. Other matters
10. Consideration and approval of the report on the Conference.

b) Inclusion of questions relating to women in the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity

55. The secretariat introduced the document entitled "La mujer en América Latina y el Caribe en el marco de la transformación productiva con equidad" (LC/L.618(MDM.12/3)). It was explained that

the document had been prepared by analysing and summarizing the ECLAC proposal on changing production patterns with social equity, with special attention given to those aspects which had the greatest effect on or were most closely linked with the status of women and, in particular, to the impact had by Latin American women on changing production patterns with social equity.

56. Attention was then drawn to the main points covered in the document and in particular to the status of women in the context of the recent Latin American scenario, to the requirements for changing production patterns with social equity and to global policy lines, with emphasis placed on those aspects which related to women. In studying the question of the status of women, the focus was not so much on the integration of women into development as it had been at the beginning of the decade since that goal had already been achieved (especially with regard to education and employment) as it was on ways of improving their incorporation into development and of making it more equitable.

57. It was also reported that the basic document for the forthcoming Conference would contain boxes relating to the areas of education, employment, income and training. The objective would be to illustrate the situation experienced by the Latin American countries as a whole at a given moment and the positive experiences of some of them which could serve as paradigms. The data contained in the document would correspond to the years just before the 1990s, and information had been made available by the specialized agencies in the United Nations system. The attempt to uncover successful experiences had revealed some ambivalent situations. For example progress had been made in the region with regard to the status of women while patterns of discrimination and subordination continued to persist.

58. The Chairman said she wanted the report to reflect her recommendations to the secretariat on the document presented. Within a period of two to three weeks, the delegations would provide ECLAC with any input needed to improve the document, which would be submitted to the fifth Conference by the Presiding Officers themselves.

59. The delegations of Argentina, Guatemala and Venezuela provided input on specific subjects.

c) Preparations for the fifth Regional Conference

60. In considering the item on preparations for the fifth Regional Conference, the representatives agreed that the regional position paper on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean would be introduced by the Presiding Officers on the basis of the document prepared by

the secretariat for the current meeting, which would be expanded by contributions from the Presiding Officers' delegations.

61. During the discussions on preparation for the fifth Regional Conference, the Presiding Officers' delegations made the following requests of the ECLAC secretariat:

i) That the resources available to the ECLAC Subregional Office for the Caribbean for use in connection with the advancement of women should be allocated with special attention given to the needs of the subregion and in particular of those Caribbean countries which were non-English speaking.

ii) That the ECLAC secretariat should support requests for resources from possible donors for the purpose of ensuring the participation of the Caribbean countries in the fifth Conference.

iii) That the secretariat should be requested to send the focal points which had been identified, a copy of all the documents on women remitted to the Ministries of Foreign Relations of the countries in the region, with a view to ensuring that those focal points were provided with timely information. In that connection, the secretariat promised to keep the list of focal points, which had been distributed during the meeting, up to date.

62. The Presiding Officers agreed to divide among themselves the responsibility for encouraging attendance at the fifth Regional Conference, distributing this task by groups of countries, as follows: the Netherlands Antilles was made responsible for Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Aruba and Grenada; Argentina took responsibility for Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay; Venezuela, for Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador; Guatemala, for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua; and Cuba, for the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Suriname, Guyana and Belize.

Other matters (agenda item 4)

63. The representative of Venezuela raised a question regarding the procedure followed by the Presiding Officers, asking whether the objective of the meeting was to introduce reports concerning what was being done in the countries or whether another aim was envisaged.

64. The representative of Cuba said she shared the concern voiced by the representative of Venezuela. There was need to define the future role of the Presiding Officers. In her view, cooperation between them and the ECLAC secretariat had brought the subject of the advancement of women to the fore once again.

65. She felt that the Presiding Officers should meet once a year and that their agenda should be more conceptual, take a more comprehensive view of the region rather than concentrating on individual countries and aim more directly at the formulation of an overview.

66. The representative of ECLAC said that the secretariat agreed that it was advisable to hold meetings of the Presiding Officers once a year and to consolidate what had been learned concerning the procedure followed.

67. In connection with the matter under consideration, the Chairman said it was important to deal with it and at the same time to deal with the question of advisory assistance provided by international bodies such as UNICEF, UNIFEM and PAHO since the topics they dealt with were interrelated and what was learned concerning them could be mutually beneficial.

68. She suggested that the following points should be taken into consideration in dealing with the procedure followed by the Presiding Officers: concept and nature of meetings of the Presiding Officers; objectives, structure and programmes and subregional approach to the work.

69. After a full exchange of opinions, the delegations adopted a list of duties of the Presiding Officers and a few recommendations for them to send to the fifth Regional Conference. The recommendations adopted in this connection may be found below.

Duties of the Presiding Officers

1. Follow-up on topics dealt with by the Conference, studying them in depth and attempting to bring about awareness and consensus among government authorities and non-governmental women's groups with respect to those topics with a view to preparing for the following Conference and providing guidelines for the substantive work done in the countries.

2. Promote wider and more prestigious participation at the next Regional Conference by remaining in permanent contact with the identified focal points and also with key government and non-government bodies. The Presiding Officers could divide the countries of the region among themselves, deciding the area in which each of them could conduct this promotional work most effectively.

3. Operate as a counterpart to the ECLAC secretariat in identifying topics for consideration by countries and projects of interest to them and in systematizing the information available in the countries on the topics

selected. Spend part of the time allotted for each meeting to dealing with a pre-selected substantive item with a view to studying it in detail from the regional point of view.

4. Help to coordinate the tasks performed with those carried out by other bodies working on questions relating to women. Each country represented by a Presiding Officer could perform this function from the point of view of its contribution to regional action.

5. Help to ensure that regional representatives in international bodies dealing with the topic of women are better prepared.

6. Make recommendations to the next Regional Conference by drafting a note concerning topics which they think that Conference should consider.

Items to be covered in a note from the
Presiding Officers to the next Conference

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean recommend that the fifth Regional Conference should:

1. Initiate the work needed to prepare a new regional plan of action within the framework of the new scenario in the region and in accordance with the proposal relating to changing production patterns with social equity. In order to embark on this task, it may be advisable to hold a meeting of a group of experts.

2. Promote the institutional continuity of government agencies created to deal with questions relating to women, proposing that these entities should be established by law rather than by decree.

3. Promote improved coordination of regional positions in international bodies dealing with problems relating to women.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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