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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

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSES OF THE MEETING

1. Mandate of the Presiding Officers

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, pursuant to the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (RPA), are the "link between governments and the secretariat of ECLAC in the field of women's integration in development". The RPA also provides that the "secretariat of ECLAC will act as the Permanent Secretariat for this Regional Conference and will regularly consult with its Presiding Officers".

2. Main agreements adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Presiding Officers

The Presiding Officers agreed to hold the Fifth Regional Conference in Curaçao from 16 to 19 September 1991.

It was further agreed that the basic framework for the preparations for the Regional Conference was to be found in ECLAC's proposal for changing production patterns with social equity and in the incorporation of the dimensions of gender into that proposal. It was recommended that the position paper for the Conference should focus on that priority.

The Presiding Officers requested that the region's preparations for the forthcoming World Conference on women should include the compilation of information, policy designs and the formulation of solidly-based regional proposals. The secretariat was asked to incorporate the priority issues identified at earlier meetings of the Presiding Officers into the position paper.

The representative of the Netherlands Antilles urged the secretariat to prepare a special document on the Caribbean. It was requested that Cuba and the Dominican Republic should be covered by the above-mentioned study.

It was further requested that consideration should be given to the possibility of obtaining financing in order to ensure that representatives of the smaller countries would be able to attend the meeting.

The Presiding Officers drafted a provisional agenda for the Fifth Regional Conference, which is contained in the annex to this annotated agenda.

The Presiding Officers agreed to hold their twelfth meeting in Argentina during the first week of May 1991 and to convene their thirteenth meeting on 14 September 1991, prior to the Fifth Regional Conference. It was recommended that experts should be invited to attend the twelfth meeting of the Presiding Officers for the purpose of discussing the substantive aspects of the position paper to be prepared by the secretariat. In the same connection the Presiding Officers requested that the secretariat should expand the reports of their meetings in order to give a fuller account of the debates and that the documents to be presented at those meetings should be made available to them one month in advance.

It was also recommended by the Presiding Officers that communication between ECLAC and the Governments of its member States should be improved and that the work carried out by the Presiding Officers should be disseminated more widely among the countries of the region.

The Presiding Officers requested that the documents presented at meetings attended by the secretariat should be provided to them, as well as the reports of technical seminars and, particularly, those of meetings held by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs headquartered in Vienna.

Finally, the Presiding Officers stressed once again to the secretariat that there was a need to hold country-level technical and training seminars.

3. Purposes of the present meeting

The purposes of the present meeting are to define the regional preparations for the Fifth Regional Conference, analyse prospects for regional projects and discuss the overall future work programme.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Presiding Officers may decide to adopt the provisional agenda proposed by the secretariat or may suggest any changes they deem appropriate.

2. Report on the activities of the Chairman of the Presiding Officers, the Presiding Officers and the secretariat secretariat from 1 November 1990 to 30 April 1991

Under this agenda item the activities of the first half of 1991 will be reviewed.

The secretariat will submit for the consideration of the Presiding Officers the following documents:

- Report of the eleventh 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 (LC/L.605(MDM.11/9)).
- Informe de la reunión sobre transformación productiva e integración de la mujer en el desarrollo (LC/L.614) (Spanish only).
- La mujer en la salud y el desarrollo: Propuesta para un sistema de información (LC/L.615) (Spanish only).
- Women, cultures and development: Views from Latin America, (Serie Mujer y Desarrollo, No. 5 (LC/L.596)).
- The vulnerability of women-headed households: Policy questions and options for Latin America and the Caribbean (Serie Mujer y Desarrollo, No. 8 (LC/L.611)).

In addition, the secretariat will report to the Presiding Officers on the progress and steps taken with regard to regional projects.

3. Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Fifth Regional Conference will be held at Curaçao from 16 to 19 September 1991.

The Presiding Officers will discuss the general preparations for the Fifth Regional Conference and suggestions concerning the provisional agenda.

The secretariat will present the outlines of the position paper being prepared by the Fifth Regional Conference concerning the integration of women into the changing of production patterns with social equity.