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**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 1997)

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the session

1. The seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in fulfilment of ECLAC resolution 557(XXVI) and was held at Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 November 1997.

Attendance¹

2. Participants in the meeting included representatives of the following States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

4. The following States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Commission were represented as observers in a consultative capacity: Australia, Egypt and the Philippines.

5. The Conference was also attended as observers in a consultative capacity by representatives of the Holy See.

6. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Chief of the Regional Commissions New York Office.

7. The Conference was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations bodies and programmes: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

¹ See annex 1.

8. The following United Nations specialized agencies were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization-World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO), International Monetary Fund and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

9. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Commission of Women-Organization of American States (IACW-OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute of Statistics-Organization of American States (IAIS-OAS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

10. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were present: In general consultative status: International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Women's International Democratic Federation, World Confederation of Labour (WCL) and Zonta International (ZI). In special consultative status: Andean Commission of Jurists, Caritas Internationalis-Chile, International Federation of University Women, ISIS International Women's Information and Communication Service, Latin American Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), Match International Centre, Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland (OXFAM-UK/I), Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, Women's International Zionist Organization, Women's World Banking, Women's World Summit Foundation, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. Roster: Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED), Friedrich Ebert Foundation and World Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

11. The Conference was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Agrupación de Mujeres Tierra Viva, Guatemala; Articulación Regional del Movimiento de Mujeres (ALCADECO), México; Asociación de Especialistas en Estudios de la Mujer; Centro de Estudios de la Mujer (CEM), Chile; Centro de Mujer Peruana "Flora Tristán"; Comisión Nacional de Mujeres Uruguayas de Seguimiento de los Compromisos de Beijing (COTIDIANO-MUJER); Coordinadora de Mujeres del Paraguay; Coordinadora Política de Mujeres Ecuatorianas; Coordinación Regional de ONGs de Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe; Corporación Participa, Chile; Equipo de Seguimiento de Políticas Públicas (ESIPP), Argentina; Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago; FEMPRESS/ILET-Red de Comunicación Alternativa de la Mujer; Instituto de la Mujer, Chile; Instituto Social y Político de la Mujer, Argentina; Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU), Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO), Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Peru; Programa Regional "La Corriente Centroamericana"; Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC); Rede de Defesa da Espécie Humana (REDEH), Brazil; Red Feminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual; and Women Working for Social Progress, Trinidad and Tobago.

Election of the Presiding Officers

12. The Conference elected the following officers:

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Chile
<u>Vice-Chairpersons:</u>	Argentina
	Barbados
	Bolivia
	Brazil
	Cuba
	El Salvador
	Netherland Antilles
	Paraguay
	Venezuela
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mexico

Documentation

13. The list of documents presented by the secretariat to the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean is included in annex 2.

B. AGENDA

14. At its first plenary meeting the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Activities of the secretariat and 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 since the sixth session of the Regional Conference
4. Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity looking to the year 2000
5. Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000
6. Consideration and adoption of the Conference agreements
7. Other matters

C. OPENING AND CLOSING MEETINGS

Opening meeting

15. At the opening meeting, the floor was taken by Mr. Eduardo Frei, President of the Republic of Chile, Ms. María Josefina Bilbao, Minister-Director of the National Women's Service of Chile (SERNAM), and Mr. Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), who delivered an address on behalf of Mr. Gert Rosenthal, the Executive Secretary of the Commission.

16. The President of Chile began by saying that the Regional Conference was an ideal forum in which to address the issue of gender. The need to examine the progress achieved and to update State measures and commitments reflected the global recognition that serious obstacles still stood in the way of improving women's quality of life. The poverty affecting women in the region and the fact that they only rarely participated in decision-making in certain arenas, such as government, business or the labour market, were particular causes for concern.

17. In some countries of the region, Chile among them, equal opportunity plans for women had been adopted in order to ensure their full integration into development, but it was essential that such plans should be systematic, coherent, comprehensive and specific and that they should have the strong support of the political authorities. In Chile, important steps had been taken in the legal sphere to establish equal rights for women, including the submission of draft legislation on domestic violence to the Congress and the setting up of family courts. Various social programmes were also being implemented, some of them targeted to the poorest groups of women, whose vulnerability was accentuated by inequality.

18. The countries of the region needed to undergo a far-reaching process of democratization in order to eradicate poverty, decrease social inequality and permit women to achieve full citizenship. Obviously, that was no easy task after centuries of inequality but it was undeniable that never before had it been so fully recognized that men and women had the same rights and obligations. The size of the challenge was no excuse for not working to achieve equality. It was essential to improving democracy that greater efforts should be deployed so that the countries of the region could benefit from women's vitality in all sectors of society.

19. The Minister-Director of the National Women's Service of Chile (SERNAM) recalled that 20 years had passed since the first session of the Regional Conference was held in Cuba in 1977. That made it the intergovernmental body of longest standing in the region for women's issues. She also recalled that it was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, whose early work had contributed to provisions on the equality of women being included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The work of that Commission could be divided into various periods. In the first period, it had concentrated on achieving legal equality for women and overcoming discrimination against them based on custom and tradition. Later, it had become concerned with the economic and social situation of women in areas such as policy planning and cultural change. At the next stage, in the decade starting in the mid-1970s, there had been a major change in the international community's understanding of the role of women, with the result that during the past decade the work of the Commission, aimed at guaranteeing respect for the rights of women and promoting their equality, had intensified and been incorporated in the substantive work of all the bodies and agencies of the United Nations.

20. The seventh session of the Regional Conference provided the opportunity of advancing from declarations of good intent to the elaboration of concrete, realistic proposals; there had already been sufficient theorizing on the obstacles confronting women and the discrimination they suffered in every country in the world. There existed, moreover, a vast awareness of those problems and a widespread conviction that the elimination of discrimination, of violence against women and of poverty were indispensable prerequisites for progress and sustainable development. The proposals put forward by women were therefore just and legitimate, since implementing them not only satisfied a sense of justice and equity, but also met a real need to make progress towards the creation of a modern society.

21. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC delivered the address of the Executive Secretary on his behalf, noting that one of the most important assets at the secretariat's disposal was the support of its member Governments and thanking the host country in particular for the assistance it had provided since the Commission's founding. A certain parallelism existed between the Commission's thinking regarding gender issues and its thinking about the overall development process of which those issues were a part, and a great deal of progress had been made in both conceptual and practical terms during the past 10 years, even more than in the 15 years that went before, starting with the United Nations General Assembly 1972 resolution proclaiming 1975 as International Women's Year. That parallelism was evident in various areas. Gender issues had come into the mainstream of the development process, in keeping with the systemic approach taken by ECLAC in its proposal for changing production patterns with social equity. That proposal was based on the idea that progress had to be made on many fronts simultaneously. Although equality of opportunity was still not a reality for many women, ECLAC placed priority on more comprehensive measures aimed at achieving growth in combination with greater social equity so that all strata of the population would benefit.

22. With specific reference to the work at hand, he noted that conferences dealing with the subject of the integration of women played an important role in enlightening people and raising their awareness, in promoting the adoption of policy and action guidelines and in fostering international cooperation. Latin America and the Caribbean had been in the vanguard of that effort, as attested by the fact that a number of countries had already begun to adopt equal opportunity plans which provided for the kinds of changes needed in order to achieve equity. In view of the foregoing, the purpose of the present session of the Conference, as determined by the member countries, was to speed up the pace of change in surmounting the obstacles that prevented women from exercising their rights and duties as citizens on an equal and equitable basis. That aim reflected the more general objective of all ECLAC conferences: to contribute to the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean within a democratic framework.

23. In closing, he made special mention of the support received in the organization of the seventh session from both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Women's Service of Chile (SERNAM) and expressed the hope that the work of the Conference would constitute a new milestone along the path towards the full incorporation of gender equality into the mainstream development agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean and the consolidation of ECLAC as a valuable meeting place for the countries of the region.

Closing meeting

24. At the closing meeting, statements were made by Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of the Commission, Ms. María Josefina Bilbao, in her capacity as Chairperson of the session, and Mr. José Joaquín Brunner, Minister-Secretary General of the Government of Chile.

25. The Executive Secretary of the Commission said that the session could be judged a success on a number of counts. First of all, it could boast a high level of participation and the presence of a large number of delegations. Second, it had achieved results achieved both tangible, in the form of the Consensus of Santiago, and intangible -and in his view even more important- in the form of interest raised across national boundaries and awareness generated around the world concerning the scope and nature of the issue of women's integration.

26. The road ahead was undoubtedly long, but one more step had been taken towards the attainment of the proposed goals. The greatest value of such meetings, he felt, was that they provided a forum for reviewing the situation in the various countries and allowed representatives to exchange experiences. The issue had found a foothold in government institutions, as evidenced by the existence of national offices, ministries or departments responsible for women's affairs. He reiterated his conviction that the session had been highly valuable and would have a long-term impact.

27. The Chairperson said that the session had demonstrated the commitment of all the participants to building a just and democratic society in which men and women would have equal opportunities. Achieving those goals would require a sustained effort, because it also entailed fighting the general discrimination generated by poverty. In this regard, one must move beyond good intentions and rhetoric to practical and imaginative ideas. The results so far obtained demonstrated the capacity of women not only to fight for their goals, but to convert them into the goals of the society as a whole. That accomplishment was grounds for optimism, and another hopeful sign was that debate at the Conference session had centred on two topics as crucial as women's access to power and participation in decision-making, and the struggle against poverty and inequality based on gender within the framework of sustainable development.

28. The example of Chile showed that economic growth was a necessary, but not a sufficient condition for overcoming poverty. Despite efforts in that direction by many democratic governments, there remained a substantial core of poverty, disproportionately composed of women. The Santiago Consensus showed that considerable progress had been made in developing concrete proposals on the two main topics on the programme for the session.

29. The Minister-Secretary General of the Government said that after many years of gender-based inequality, a new awareness in that regard was becoming apparent in all spheres. In Chile, the Government had made the issue its own by developing an equal opportunity plan for women; the plan objectives were being integrated into sectoral policies, and the political will to achieve them was manifest. In that regard, the Government had recently signed a commitment with representatives of women's organizations, civil society and political parties to ensure compliance with the international agreements to which Chile was a signatory.

30. It was important to focus attention on cultural attitudes in day-to-day life, religious beliefs, established customs and social values, and to stress that as long as the achievements of democracy did not extend to women, democratic pluralism would remain limited. The communications media could play a key role in that regard. The challenge of pluralism was to build consensus even on issues on which there appeared to be irreconcilable differences, by presenting rational arguments and persisting in gradual persuasion.

31. He concluded by saying that the fundamental problems of the twenty-first century would continue to be poverty and inequality, problems affecting women to a much greater degree than men. Hence the

solution to gender problems was closely linked to the creation of open, pluralistic societies, societies that not only possessed institutions and legal systems inspired by democratic principles, but were able to give expression to those values in all spheres of activity.

D. SUMMARY OF DEBATES

Activities of the ECLAC secretariat and 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 since the sixth session of the Regional Conference (agenda item 3)

32. The incoming Chairperson thanked her predecessor and said that her election was a significant opportunity for Chile, which was chairing the Presiding Officers for the first time. The large number of Latin American and Caribbean countries represented at the session was highly gratifying and demonstrated the importance attached to the issue.

33. The outgoing Chairperson, recapitulating the events that had occurred during her mandate, said that the experience had been enriching and had been productive for ECLAC, for the women of the continent and for her own personal growth. The Presiding Officers had performed an important role in serving as a liaison with the countries, in addition to the work they had done in collaboration with academic centres, non-governmental organizations and Governments. From the beginning of her term it had been necessary to coordinate cooperation activities with all the other organizations of the system in order to optimize their efforts. Accordingly, it had been decided that each Presiding Officer would undertake to conduct missions in her subregion with a view to organizing joint regional projects designed to strengthen national women's offices, train young women and update legislation.

34. Since the twelfth meeting of the Presiding Officers, radical changes had taken place which had compelled them to consider future prospects from a different vantage point and to define guidelines for a regional programme of action at the sixth session of the Regional Conference. Notwithstanding the region's diversity, on that occasion a consensus had been reached by over 2,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 600 government representatives. As a result, it had been possible to make a regional contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women, outlining priorities for the region and promoting strategy complementarity and coordination. Analysis of poverty and social inequity should not be treated as an intellectual exercise. Women should be leading agents of change, and one of the objectives of the Conference was to propose concrete policies for combating poverty and promoting participation by women on an equal basis in the colossal task of forging a better world.

35. The Chief of the Women and Development Unit drew attention to the documents which the representatives had before them, in particular the position papers on the two issues to be considered by the working groups, namely, access to power and participation in decision-making, and sustainable development, poverty and gender. She gave a brief outline of the activities conducted by the secretariat during the past three years, with specific reference to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the adoption of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001. She highlighted the active participation of the Caribbean subregion in that process and the contribution it had made to the seventh session of the Regional Conference in the form of the Georgetown Consensus. She also referred to the ECLAC publications on women's issues which were being used in postgraduate courses and to the activities that the Commission

was pursuing in an effort to incorporate the gender perspective in the work programmes of the various divisions.

36. In accordance with the programme for the session, during the plenary meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 19 November, the representatives engaged in a general discussion of the activities carried out in the countries since 1994. Statements were made by the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela; by representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); and by a representative of the non-governmental organizations.

37. The delegations noted that significant progress had been made in improving the position of women within their societies, communities and families. Special stress was laid on the issue of violence against women in all its forms: domestic violence; sexual harassment and sex offenses, problems that Governments were facing by passing laws defining such acts as crimes and identifying them as a public health problem; training and sensitizing public officials and police personnel; creating networks to deal with violence, setting up houses of refuge and providing emergency services for the victims. In this context, representatives also discussed the vulnerability and unprotected status of women and children in situations of armed conflict.

38. Other advances mentioned were the creation and expansion of national agencies responsible for promoting the advancement of women in a variety of ways, such as: awareness-raising and education through the communications media; training women in technical areas and through vocational programmes to enhance their self-reliance and improve their access to well-paid, productive, income-producing jobs in order to mitigate the effects of neo-liberal economic globalization; conducting programmes to combat the trend towards feminization of poverty; implementing equal opportunity policies; developing systems of statistical information disaggregated by sex and incorporating the gender variable, as well as indicators of inequalities between women and men; reforming legal codes and other laws so that they better protect the rights of women, including adolescent girls, and are purged of prejudicial provisions. Representatives also reported on a number of initiatives to improve inter-agency coordination, thereby making programmes for women more efficient; to move towards integrated, cross-sectoral planning of public policies and global development strategies incorporating a gender perspective; to involve non-governmental organizations in carrying out government-funded programmes; to achieve greater gender equity in the political and electoral sphere by setting quotas for representation on lists of candidates for public office, training women for leadership and promoting legal equality and their full exercise of citizenship.

39. A number of delegations said that it was significant that the gender issue was increasingly in evidence on the agendas of the region's Governments and at high-level international meetings. Nevertheless, there remained a backlog of problems on various levels that must be faced. Among the challenges were those of combatting poverty; strengthening democracy; decentralizing public action on behalf of women to the level of regions and communities; eradicating a culture of violence; identifying and abolishing the legal, institutional and social mechanisms that keep women in a subordinate position and perpetuate discrimination and sexist stereotypes; and assigning greater resources to the agencies in

charge of executing policies and programmes that benefit women. On the family level, it was imperative to root out patriarchal and inequitable attitudes, which were inculcated in girls and boys through the socialization process, and to promote an equitable distribution of responsibilities and facilitate women's entry into areas traditionally seen as masculine, overcoming cultural barriers.

40. Caribbean delegations reported on a protocol on cooperation in the area of public policies with a gender perspective that was signed by the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Suriname and on the adoption of the Georgetown Consensus at the CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: a Caribbean subregional ministerial conference on women's issues. Among the problems of particular concern to the countries of the Caribbean subregion were the plight of female migrant workers and the problems associated with the existence of a large proportion of female-headed households.

Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity looking to the year 2000 (agenda item 4)

41. In the working group on access to power and participation in decision-making, the participants considered the major obstacles preventing women from gaining greater access to power on the levels of the family, the local community and the society at large and discussed strategies for overcoming the problem. Underlying the debate was the general recognition that greater participation by women strengthens democracy by allowing the expression of the whole range of interests, voices and needs of the society.

42. Some of the obstacles identified were the following: a) poverty, which affects a large percentage of women and especially female heads of household; b) domestic violence; c) the forms socialization currently takes; d) division of labour by gender at all levels; e) lack of political experience; f) limited access to information; g) current institutional arrangements, political party practices and electoral systems; h) the stereotyped image of women transmitted by the media; and i) the difficulty in transferring women's active participation and leadership on the local level to the sphere of politics and societal decision-making.

43. In order to overcome these obstacles and expand women's exercise of citizenship, a number of proposals were put forward, chiefly in the following areas: a) establishing affirmative action mechanisms, such as quota systems; b) promoting socialization and education that prepare for leadership and exercise of power, especially for young women; c) orienting education towards wider dissemination of political information and development of women's autonomy and self-esteem; d) promoting specific consideration of the needs and contributions of particular groups of women, including rural women, indigenous women, young women and migrant women; e) training women in negotiating methods and skills; f) strengthening civil society; g) fostering dialogue and collaboration between civil society and the State; h) strengthening women's groups and networks; and i) adopting measures to ensure transparency in decision-making processes.

44. The debate revealed many similarities across the region, but did point up some differences between Caribbean and Latin American countries in terms of the prevalence of female-headed households and the negotiating skills that have traditionally characterized Caribbean women in various decision-making spheres.

Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000 (agenda item 5)

45. In the working group on sustainable development, poverty and gender, it was emphasized that, despite progress in macroeconomic stability in many countries of the region, poverty continued to be a major problem: in most of the countries a significant proportion of households were living below the poverty line.

46. In presenting their analyses, the delegations tended to agree on the main constraints or obstacles to reducing poverty, which affected women in particular. They also concurred in identifying the chief problems affecting women in the region: gender bias in labour-force entry and limited access to health care, education, training and resources such as land and credit. They recognized the need for indicators that better measured the situation of women and for dissemination of information in that regard.

47. The most important aspect of the debate involved the formulation of concrete proposals for improving the situation of women and reducing levels of poverty. There was consensus on the need to integrate economic and social policies, to incorporate the dimension of gender in all policies and to have governments assume commitments that could be evaluated and monitored for compliance at specified intervals.

48. All the proposals presented stressed the importance of ensuring women access to jobs on an equal footing with men. Attention was also drawn to the need for measures to reverse the tendency towards substandard employment heavily affecting women in particular. Some of the chief measures proposed were: a) training women for jobs that contributed to the country's development; b) disseminating information about the job market and the rights of women; c) developing a social security system for the informal sector; d) designing a system that did not discriminate against men and women with respect to the cost of maternity; e) finding ways of assisting women to combine parenting with work responsibilities, as long as equal sharing of child care responsibilities was not a reality. In addition, the need for targeted programmes was noted, since economic growth was not benefitting all regions or groups equally.

49. Another important topic addressed was access to health care for women, which should encompass their entire lifetime, not just their reproductive years. With respect to education, it was said that incorporating the gender perspective was a one of the key prerequisites for improving the situation of women, because of its impact both on occupational status and on demographic variables. In many of the countries, educational reforms were underway or under consideration, hence the importance of incorporating the gender perspective at the early stages.

50. Civic participation by women in political decision-making was also held to be a prerequisite for ensuring the success of policies and programmes to improve the situation of women and reduce poverty.

51. The participants expressed concern over the degradation of the environment and said that women should play an important role in protecting natural resources.

52. In conclusion, the participants agreed that combatting poverty was not the only goal of social policy, nor was it solely the responsibility of the State. Its multifaceted nature necessitated the involvement of all economic, political and social agents.

Consideration and adoption of the Conference agreements (agenda item 6)

53. The function of Rapporteur was performed by the delegation of Mexico, headed by Ambassador Aída González, Coordinator of International Women's Matters of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She read a summary report on the work of the session, which was approved, and informed the participants that the draft report would be sent to them for their comments within the customary time period.

54. At its final plenary meeting, the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Santiago Consensus (see point E). It also adopted two resolutions and a declaration (see point F).

Other matters (agenda item 7)

55. The delegations raised no other matters.

E. ADOPTION OF THE SANTIAGO CONSENSUS

56. The seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Santiago Consensus, the text of which is presented in annex 3 to this report.

F. RESOLUTIONS

57. At its final plenary meeting, the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted two resolutions, one concerning national institutions for women's issues and another concerning activities in follow-up to the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, and a declaration in support of women and children during times of natural disaster.

58. The resolutions adopted are presented below.

RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR WOMEN

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,

Taking into consideration the fact that the political, administrative and financial deficiencies of government mechanisms for guaranteeing women's full exercise of their citizenship continue to act as an obstacle to equitable participation by women in decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development,

Considering that the Beijing Platform for Action states that the major task of national institutions for the advancement of women is to support the mainstreaming of the gender perspective throughout the government structure and in all spheres, which requires that the necessary human, administrative and financial resources should be made available,

Recalling that strategic action II.1 of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 calls for the creation or strengthening of the political, legislative and financial capacity of government institutions for the advancement of women,

1. Recommends that the Governments of the countries of the region strengthen, as needed, their national machinery for the advancement of women, endowing it with sufficient political capacity to participate in the formulation and adoption of development policies and programmes;

2. Urges the Governments of the countries of the region to provide government institutions for the advancement of women with the financial, administrative, technical and material resources that will enable them to coordinate or guide public policies aimed at improving the status of women and seeking gender equity;

3. Advocates the participation by government institutions for women in the design, discussion, formulation and amendment of draft laws in order to ensure that women's interests are taken into account, in fulfilment of strategic action II.1.c of the Regional Programme of Action.

RESOLUTION ON ACTIVITIES IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-2001

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,

Considering that the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted by the Regional Conference at its sixth session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, has as its core objective to expedite the achievement of gender equity and the full exercise of citizenship in the framework of sustainable development with social justice and democracy,

Recalling the follow-up activities for the Mar del Plata Regional Programme of Action, approved by the Conference at its sixth session, which include actions to be carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference,

Bearing in mind the tasks to be carried out by the ECLAC secretariat in its capacity as coordinating body for the Presiding Officers, such as the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and to the Regional Programme of Action,

Considering that the Programme of Action stipulates the need for the ECLAC secretariat to continue to assist the Presiding Officers in ensuring the best possible coordination with the specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system,

1. Reaffirms the need to ensure that the decisions, responsibilities and benefits of development are distributed equitably among women and men;

2. Supports the steps taken by the Presiding Officers of the sixth session of the Regional Conference to follow up on activities designed in implementation of the Mar del Plata Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, and in particular the measure aimed at reinforcing the functions of the Presiding Officers by maintaining a liaison network to systematically inform the Presiding Officers and the countries of the region about the different activities of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system concerned with the status of women;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to make the necessary arrangements for the report of the Conference to be presented at the ECLAC session by the Chairperson of the Conference;

4. Recommends to the Executive Secretary that henceforth the Conference should be entitled the "Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean".

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN DURING TIMES
OF NATURAL DISASTER**

Submitted by the delegations of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago

We, the ministers with responsibility for women's affairs, heads of women's bureaux, national and regional non-governmental organizations, regional and international intergovernmental agencies, as representatives in attendance at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 to 21 November 1997, hereby acknowledge the ecological and historical nature of development which has occurred in small island developing States such as those that make up the Caribbean subregion. This development process has made these States vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, coastal erosion, pollution and volcanic eruption. Women and children have borne an unequal burden of the outcome of these disasters in the form of homelessness, loss of income and disease. Women's position as heads of households and as a significant part of the poor has increased their vulnerability. The plight of women and children in Montserrat, an island whose population has been depleted owing to the ravages of a volcanic eruption, and St. Maarten, an island devastated by recent hurricanes, are current examples.

The Ministers who met at the Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference, held at Georgetown, Guyana, from 6 to 8 August 1997, recognized the plight of these women and children and adopted a resolution which declared their solidarity with the people of Montserrat during the widespread destruction caused by the disastrous eruption of the volcano.

We further declare, in the light of the unequal burden borne by women and children as a result of the impact of disasters on small island developing States, that more tangible efforts should be made by the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean at the time of such disasters as that in Montserrat to ensure that the victims, in particular women and their dependents, are afforded the opportunity to enjoy sustained and meaningful livelihoods.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission
Etats membres de la Commission**

**ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Representante/Representative: Gwendolyn Tonge, Senator, Parliamentary Secretary, Gender Affairs Division, Office of the Prime Minister

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Sheila Pigott, Government Statistician, Planned Parenthood Association, Ministry of Health; Sheila Roseau, Executive Director, Directorate of Women's Affairs

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative: Zelmira Regazzoli, Embajadora, Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos y de la Mujer, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Noemí Cristina Aumedes, Directora, Dirección General de la Mujer, Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires; Susana Badaracco, Asesora, Dirección General de la Mujer, Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires; Ana María Carrito de Megías, Jefa del Programa de la Mujer (La Rioja); Teresa González Fernández de Sola, Directora de la Mujer; Elsa González Guirado, Asesora, Dirección General de la Mujer, Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires; Ana Jaramillo, Rectora, Universidad Nacional de Lanús; Mabel Maidana, Directora Nacional de Promoción y Capacitación, Consejo Nacional de la Mujer; Elba Melillo, Funcionaria Comisión Ad-Hoc; Mercedes Muro de Nadal de Avogadro, Departamento de ONG y Universidades, Cancillería; Yolanda Nacen de Awada, Asesora de Gabinete, Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social; María Elisa Nicolau de Bracelis, Presidenta, Consejo Provincial de la Mujer (Mendoza); Yolanda Ortiz, Coordinadora, Grupo Mujer y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Sustentable; Julio Piquer, Asesor Técnico, Comisión de Seguimiento de la Cumbre de Beijing; Susana Sanz, Directora Nacional de Asistencia Técnica, Consejo Nacional de la Mujer; Marta Eva Turín de Llanos, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Consejo de la Mujer de la Provincia de La Pampa; Celina J. Valenzuela, Directora Provincial del Boletín

Oficial (Jujuy); Laura Velásquez, Directora Nacional para la Reforma Política, Ministerio del Interior; Corina Lehmann, Segundo Secretario, Embajada de Argentina en Chile

BARBADOS

Representante/Representative: Rudolph Grenidge, Minister of Labour, Community Development and Sports

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Shirley Stroude, Senior Administrative Officer, Ministry of Labour, Community Development and Sports

BOLIVIA

Representante/Representative: Carolina Toledo, Viceministra de Asuntos de Género, Generacionales y Familia

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Zulema Alanes, Directora General de Asuntos de Género

BRASIL

BRAZIL

Representante/Representative: Rosiska Darcy de Oliveira, Presidenta, Consejo Nacional de Derechos de la Mujer

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Jorge Nedilson, Segundo Secretario, Embajada de Brasil en Chile

CANADA

Representante/Representative: Lise Filiatrault, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Canadá en Chile

CHILE

Representante/Representative: Josefina Bilbao, Ministra Directora, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM)

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Adriana Delpiano, Ministra de Bienes Nacionales; Samuel Fernández, Director de Política Multilateral (S), Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Josiene Bonefoy, Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación; Fidel Coloma, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Carla González, Jefa, División de Estudios del Ministerio Secretaría General de la Presidencia; del Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM): Natacha Molina, Subdirectora; Teresa Rodríguez, Jefa, Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales; Valeria Ambrosio, Directora Región Metropolitana; María

Angélica Bórquez, Jefa, Departamento de Planificación y Estudios; Ana Cáceres, Jefa, Departamento de Programas; Delia Del Gatto, Jefa, Unidad de Coordinación Sectorial; María Etienne Irigoin, Jefa, Departamento de Capacitación; Gladys Gómez, Jefa, Departamento de Regiones; María Teresa Guerra, Prensa; Bárbara Hayes, Jefa, Departamento de Comunicaciones; Jorge Jorquera, Fiscal; Imay Ortiz, Coordinadora, Departamento de Reformas Legales; Patricio Vargas, Prensa; María Soledad Gómez; Luz María Reyes, Jefa de Gabinete de Ministra; Loreto Cortés, Asesora Legal de la Ministra; Patricia Silva, Jefa Gabinete Subdirectora; Lissette García; Loreto Ditzel, Subjefa, Unidad de Coordinación Sectorial; Pamela Díaz, Profesional del Departamento de Estudios; María Luisa Rojas; Carmen Andrade; Daysi Rosas, Directora Regional (IV Región); María Ximena Chacón, Directora Regional (V Región); Alba Gallardo, Directora Regional (VI Región); Gloria Bernal, Directora Regional (VIII Región); Rosa Sanhueza, Directora Regional (XII Región)

COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative: Olga Amparo Sánchez Gómez, Directora, Dirección Nacional de Equidad para las Mujeres, Presidencia de la República

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Martha Cecilia Ramírez, Primer Secretario, Embajada de Colombia en Chile

COSTA RICA

Representante/Representative: Ana Isabel García Quesada, Directora, Centro Nacional Mujer y Familia

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Lucía Camacho, Consejera, Embajada de Costa Rica en Chile

CUBA

Representante/Representative: Yolanda Ferrer, Secretaria General, Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Carolina Aguilar, Directora Editorial de la Mujer; Magalys Arocha, Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, Federación de Mujeres Cubanas; Rebeca Cutié, Funcionaria Relaciones Exteriores; Ana Milagros Martínez, Funcionaria; Ana Silvia Rodríguez, Funcionaria, Ministerio de Inversión Extranjera y Colaboración Económica

DOMINICA

Representante/Representative: Gertrude Roberts, Minister for Community Development and Women's Affairs

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Rosie Browne, Director of Women's Bureau

ECUADOR

Representante/Representative: Rocío Rosero Garcés, Subdirectora del Consejo Nacional de las Mujeres

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Isabel Albornoz, Segundo Secretario, Embajada del Ecuador en Chile; Elsa María Castro, Dirigente Nacional de la Coordinadora Política de la Mujer Ecuatoriana

EL SALVADOR

Representantes/Representatives: Edith Adeline Courtade de Cáceres, Directora Ejecutiva, Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (ISDEMU)

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: José Roberto Aguilar Alvarez, Asesor de la Presidencia, Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (ISDEMU)

ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Representante/Representative: Sharon B. Kotok, Officer-in-Charge of International Women's Programmes, Department of State

FRANCIA
FRANCE

Representante/Representative: Jean Paul Barré, Ambassadeur Observateur Permanent auprès OEA

GRANADA
GRENADA

Representante/Representative: Laurina Waldron

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Valerie Charter

GUATEMALA

Representante/Representative: Berta Hilda Marroquín, Directora Ejecutiva, Oficina Nacional de la Mujer

HAITI

Representante/Representative: Marie Carmelle Paul Austin, Directrice Générale

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Emmanuelle Laguerre Durosseau, Chargée de mission, Ministère de la Planification

HONDURAS

Representante/Representative: Clara Rosa Jerezano, Directora Ejecutiva de la Oficina Gubernamental de la Mujer

JAMAICA

Representante/Representative: Faith Innerarity, Director of Social Security, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Sports

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Mary Clarke, Manager, Social Planning and Gender Unit, Planning Institute of Jamaica; Barbara Bailey, Regional Coordinator, Centre for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies; Glenda Simms, Executive Director, Bureau of Women's Affairs

MEXICO

Representante/Representative: Aída González, Embajadora, Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales de la Mujer, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Roxana Cuevas Flores, Asesor Ejecutivo del Gobierno Estatal de Coahuila; Francisco Pamplona Rangel, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca; Dulce María Saurí Riancho, Coordinadora General del Programa Nacional de la Mujer; Sandra Samaniego Breach, Coordinadora de Asuntos Internacionales, Programa Nacional de la Mujer; Cruz Arcelia Tánori Villa, Subdirectora de Estudios Económicos y Sociales, Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca; Flor de Lis Vásquez Muñoz, Coordinación de Asuntos de la Mujer, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

NICARAGUA

Representante/Representative: Daisy Orozco, Subdirectora Ejecutiva, Instituto Nicaragüense de la Mujer (INIM)

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: María Josefina de Cardenal, Encargada de Negocios, Embajada de Nicaragua en Chile

PAISES BAJOS NETHERLANDS

Representante/Representative: John von Muhlen, Embajador de los Países Bajos en Chile

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Klaas van der Tempel, Primer Secretario, Embajada de los Países Bajos en Chile; Johannes Verboom

PANAMA

Representante/Representative: Urania Ungo, Directora, Dirección Nacional de la Mujer

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: María Rosa Serrano

PARAGUAY

Representante/Representative: Cristina Muñoz, Ministra, Secretaría de la Mujer, Presidencia de la República

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Marta Rosa Melgarejo, Directora General de Coordinación y Operaciones de la Secretaría de la Mujer de la Presidencia de la República; Bernarda Rivas de Ott, Miembro del Consejo del Crédito Agrícola de Habilidadación; Haydée Dienstmaier de Pérez, Primera Secretaria, Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Chile; Lilian Mires, Asesora de la Delegación Oficial; María Elena de Diez Pérez, Asesora, Secretaría de la Mujer; Julia María del Pilar Rivarola, Asesora, Secretaría de la Mujer

PERU

Representante/Representative: Carmen Rosa Gutiérrez Seminario, Gerenta de Promoción de la Mujer, Ministerio de Promoción de la Mujer y el Desarrollo Humano (PROMUDEH)

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Milagros Ríos García, Especialista de la Gerencia de Promoción de la Mujer, Ministerio de Promoción de la Mujer y el Desarrollo Humano (PROMUDEH); Patricia Ráez, Funcionaria Diplomática, Embajada del Perú en Chile

REINO UNIDO UNITED KINGDOM

Representante/Representative: Nicholas Low, Encargado de Asuntos Políticos

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Christopher Clark, Secretary, Embassy of the United Kingdom in Chile

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative: Gladys Gutiérrez, Ministra de Asuntos de la Mujer

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Sergia Galván, Asesora Asuntos Internacionales

SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Representante/Representative: Rosalyn Hazelle, Director of Women's Affairs

SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Representante/Representative: Jeanie Ollivierre, Director, Women's Bureau, Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Beverley Warren, Population Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Finance and Planning

SANTA LUCIA
SAINT LUCIA

Representante/Representative: Sarah Lucy Flood, Minister, Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Women

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Leonard Surage, Saint Lucia Family Planning Association

SURINAME

Representante/Representative: Maya Manohar, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Housing

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Sandra Clenem, Acting Coordinator, National Bureau Gender Policy; Nadia Raveles, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Regional Development; Ifna Vrede, Advisor, Ministry of Regional Development; Ruth Wijdenbosch, Member of Parliament, National Assembly

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representante/Representative: Daphne Phillips, Minister, Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Women's Affairs

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Aileen Clarke, Director, Women's Affairs Division

URUGUAY

Representante/Representative: Alba Estela Osoros de Lanza, Directora, Instituto Nacional de la Familia y de la Mujer

VENEZUELA

Representante/Representative: María Bello de Guzmán, Presidenta, Consejo Nacional de la Mujer (CONAMU)

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Carmen Teresa Martínez, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales del Consejo Nacional de la Mujer (CONAMU) y Directora Sectorial de Promoción de la Mujer del Ministerio de la Familia; Argelia Laya, Asesora, Consejo Nacional de la Mujer; Ligia Toro, Presidenta, Consejo Regional de la Mujer del Estado Miranda; Yasmin Turuphial, Primer Secretario, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Adicea Castillo, Directiva de la Coordinadora de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Mujeres (CONG)/CEM-UCV; Dilcia de Cordero; Chafica Fina Jurdi Vordi, Tercer Secretario, Embajada de Venezuela en Chile

B. Miembros Asociados
Associate Members
Membres associés

ANTILLAS NEERLANDESAS
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Representante/Representative: Edith Strauss-Marsera, Minister

ARUBA

Representante/Representative: Brigitte M. Gómez, Coordinator, Bureau of Women's Affairs, Department of Social Affairs

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Alice de Cuba, Planificadora Social, Departamento de Asuntos Sociales

**C. Estados miembros de las Naciones Unidas que no lo son
de la Comisión y participan con carácter consultivo
Member States of the United Nations not members of the
Commission and participating in a consultative capacity
Etats membres des Nations Unies qui ne sont pas membres de la
Commission et y participant à titre consultatif**

AUSTRALIA

Representante/Representative: Katrina Cooper, Segundo Secretario, Embajada de Australia en Chile

EGIPTO
EGYPT

Representante/Representative: Soha El-Far, Consejero, Embajada de Egipto en Chile

FILIPINAS
PHILIPPINES

Representante/Representative: María Amelita Aquino, Segunda Secretaria y Cónsul, Embajada de Filipinas en Chile

POLONIA
POLAND

Representante/Representative: Lech Miodek, Consejero, Embajada de Polonia en Chile

**D. Estados que no son miembros de las Naciones Unidas
y que participan con carácter consultivo
States not members of the United Nations and participating
in a consultative capacity
Etats non membres des Nations Unies et participant
à titre consultatif**

SANTA SEDE
HOLY SEE

Representante/Representative: Carmen Croxatto Ovando

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members: Pilar Escudero Palacios; María Sara Rodríguez Pinto

**E. Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat
Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

Oficina de las Comisiones Regionales en Nueva York/Regional Commissions New York Office

Sulafa Al-Bassam, Chief

**F. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies
Organisations rattachées à l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)/Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR)

Therese Morel, Regional Adviser for Refugee Women for the Americas

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (FNUAP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population (FNUAP)

Liliana Frieiro-Berglund, Directora Adjunta, División de América Latina y el Caribe
Belkys Mones, Asesora en Género, Población y Desarrollo
Inaluis Lourdes Rodríguez Reyes, Investigadora Social

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)

Aparna Mehrotra, Deputy Chief, Division for the Regional Programme, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and Gender Focal Point
Liliana De Pauli, Representante Residente Adjunta
Rebecca Arias, Gender Focal Point from UNDP El Salvador

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (FISE)

Joan French, Regional Adviser for Women and Gender
Sara Elisa Rosales, Consultora, Programa de Equidad y Género

Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM)

Ana María Brasileiro, Chief, Latin America and the Caribbean Section

**G. Organismos especializados
Specialized Agencies
Institutions spécialisées**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)/Organisation internationale du travail (OIT)

Gerry Rodgers, Director del Equipo Técnico Multidisciplinario para Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y Uruguay

María Elena Valenzuela, Consultora en cuestiones de mujeres y género del Equipo Técnico Multidisciplinario (ETM)/Santiago

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

Vilma Aray, Regional Officer, Women in Development

Lucía Quezada, Oficial Profesional Asociado

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

José Rivero, Regional Specialist in Adult Education

Katrin Boege, Associate Expert in Education

María Luisa Jáuregui, Especialista Regional en Educación y Mujer

Organización Mundial de la Salud-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OMS-OPS)/World Health Organization-Pan American Health Organization (WHO-PAHO)/Organisation mondiale de la santé-Organisation panaméricaine de la santé (OMS-OPS)

Elsa Gómez, Asesora Regional Mujer, Salud y Desarrollo

Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI)/International Monetary Fund (IMF)/Fonds monétaire international (FMI)

Armando Linde, Senior Adviser in the Western Hemisphere Department

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)/Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI)

Klaus Billand, Director, Oficina de la ONUDI para Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay y Coordinación MERCOSUR

**H. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales
Other Intergovernmental Organizations
Autres organisations intergouvernementales**

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/Banque interaméricaine de développement (BID)

Gabriela Vega, Especialista en Desarrollo Social, Unidad de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible

Comunidad del Caribe/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)/Communauté des Caraïbes

Gemma Tang Nain, Deputy Programme Manager, Caribbean Community Development and Women's Affairs

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)/Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences/Faculté latinoaméricaine de sciences sociales

Teresa Valdés, Subdirectora Académica de la Sede FLACSO-Chile
Marisa Weinstein, delegada de los profesores ante el Consejo Superior de la FLACSO

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)/Organisation des Etats américains

- Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM)/Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW)/Commission interaméricaine des femmes (OAS)

Cristina Muñoz, Directora

- Instituto Interamericano de Estadística/Inter-American Institute of Statistics/Institut interaméricain des statistiques

Oscar René Miranda Rosas, Profesor del Centro Interamericano de Enseñanza y Estadística (CIENES)

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)/Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)

Gunther Mussig, Chief of Mission

**I. Organizaciones no gubernamentales reconocidas como entidades consultivas por el Consejo Económico y Social
Non-Governmental Organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council as having consultative status
Organisations non gouvernementales auxquelles le Conseil économique et social reconnaît le statut consultatif**

CARÁCTER CONSULTIVO GENERAL/GENERAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Confederación Mundial del Trabajo/World Confederation of Labour/Confédération mondiale du travail

María Flor Contreras Perez, Presidente, Red de Trabajadores de Temporada

Consejo Internacional de Mujeres/International Council of Women/Conseil international des femmes

Patricia Raez Portocarrero

Consejo Internacional para la Educación de Adultos/International Council for Adult Education/Conseil International d'Education des Adultes

Celia Eccher, Vice Presidenta

Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres/Women's International Democratic Federation/Fédération démocratique internationale des femmes

Dora Carcano Araujo, Coordinadora Regional de la FDIM para América Latina y el Caribe

Federación Internacional de Mujeres Profesionales y de Negocios/International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)/Fédération internationale des femmes de carrières libérales et commerciales (FIFCLC)

Susana Reich, Representante ante la CEPAL

Federación Internacional de Planificación de la Familia/International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)/Fédération internationale pour le planning familial

Verónica Cosoi, Coordinadora Nacional, IPPF/APROFA-Chile

Zonta Internacional/Zonta International/Zonta International

Olga Arellano Salgado, Vicegobernadora Distrito 19

CARÁCTER CONSULTIVO ESPECIAL/SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Alianza Mundial de Asociaciones Cristianas de Jóvenes (ACJ)/World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA)/Alliance universelle des unions chrétiennes de jeunes gens (UCJG)

Erika Sánchez, Directora Proyectos, Asociación Alianza Mundial de Asociaciones Cristianas de Jóvenes (ACJ) de Valparaíso

Banca Mundial de la Mujer/Women's World Banking (WWB)/Banque mondiale des femmes

Ida Giovinazzi

Cáritas-Internationalis (Chile)

Christiane Raczynski

Alicia Amunátegui de Ross, Presidenta, Federación Nacional de Instituciones Privadas

María Eliana Ortúzar, Directora, Programa Nacional de Atención de Enfermos de SIDA y Prevención de Enfermedades

María Inés Ross

Comisión Andina de Juristas/Andean Commission of Jurists/Commission andine de juristes

Javier Ciurlizza Contreras, Secretario General

Comité Latinoamericano para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM)/Latin American Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights

Carmen Antony, Abogada

Federación Internacional de Mujeres Universitarias/International Federation of University Women/Fédération internationale des femmes diplômées des universités

Emma Salas, Asociación Chilena de Mujeres Universitarias

Fundación Cumbre Mundial de la Mujer/Women's World Summit Foundation/Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes

Elly Pradervand, Founder/Executive Director

Isis-International Women's Information and Communication Service/ISIS-Servicio Internacional de Información y Comunicación de las Mujeres/Isis-Service féminin international d'information et de communication

Ana María Gómez, Coordinadora General
María Soledad Weisntein, Coordinadora

MATCH International Centre

María Eugenia Otárola, Programme Officer for Latin America

Organización Internacional de Mujeres Sionistas/Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO)/Organisation Internationale des Femmes Sionistes

Juanita M. de Wechsler, Presidenta de WIZO Chile
Dorita Fried
Lisel Wallerstein, Directora de Socias

Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland (OXFAM UK/I)

Miriam Palacios, Special Programme Officer

Servicio, Paz y Justicia en América Latina/Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America/Service, paix et justice en Amérique Latine

Ilia de las Mercedes Montoya Leiva, Directora

Unión Mundial de las Organizaciones Femeninas Católicas/World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations/Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques

Vera E.H. de Tabanera, Presidenta para América Latina y el Caribe

LISTA/ROSTER

Asociación Mundial de Ejecutivas de Empresas/World Association of Women Entrepreneurs/Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales

Patricia Vergara de Muller, Presidenta de la Asociación Mexicana de Mujeres Jefes de Empresa

Comité para la Cooperación Internacional en las Investigaciones Nacionales sobre Demografía/Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography (CICRED)/Comité international de coopération dans les recherches nationales en démographie

Astrid Becker

Fundación Friedrich Ebert/Friedrich Ebert Foundation/Fondation Friedrich Ebert

Astrid Becker, Directora, Programa Desarrollo Económico y Social

**J. Otras organizaciones no gubernamentales
Other non-governmental organizations
Autres organisations non gouvernementales**

Agrupación de Mujeres Tierra Viva

María Eugenia Lemus Valenzuela

Articulación Regional del Movimiento de Mujeres (ALCADECO)

Laura Frade Rubio, Presidenta

Asociación de Especialistas en Estudios de la Mujer

Cecilia Lipszyc

Asociación Latinoamericana para los Derechos Humanos/Latin American Association for Human Rights/Association latino-américaine pour les droits de l'homme

Clemira Pacheco

Centro de Estudios de la Mujer (CEM)

Virginia Guzmán Barcos
Adicea Castillo (Venezuela)

Centro de la Mujer Peruana "Flora Tristán"

Virginia Vargas Valente, Presidenta del Directorio

Comisión Nacional de Mujeres Uruguayas de Seguimiento de los compromisos de Beijing (COTIDIANO-MUJER)

Lucy Garrido, Editora

Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)/Latin American Social Sciences Council/Conseil latino-américain de sciences sociales

Magaly Pineda, Directora del Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina (CIPAF) de la República Dominicana

Coordinación de Mujeres del Paraguay

Manuelita Escobar, Miembro Fundadora

Coordinadora Política de Mujeres Ecuatorianas

Elsa María Castro

Coordinación Regional de ONGs de Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe

Cecilia Loría

Corporación Participa

Fabiola Zambra Yáñez, Jefa de Proyectos

Equipo de Seguimiento de Políticas Públicas (ESIPP) - Argentina

Haydée Birgin

Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Dona Da Costa-Martínez, Deputy Executive Director

FEMPRESS-ILET - Red de Comunicación de Alternativa de la Mujer

Viviana Erazo, Directora Adjunta

Instituto de la Mujer

Nuria Núñez, Directora

Instituto Social y Político de la Mujer

Susana Inés Stilman, Secretaria General

Movimiento Manuela Ramos

Frescia Carrasco, Coordinadora Programa de Salud

Programa Regional "La Corriente Centroamericana"

Rose Mary Madden

Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe (RSMLAC)

Amparo Claro, Coordinadora General
María Isabel Matamala Vivaldi, Coordinadora Adjunta

Rede de Defesa da Espécie Humana (REDEH)

Schuma Schumacher, Coordinadora

Red Feminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual

Isabel Duque, Coordinadora Ejecutiva

Women Working for Social Progress

Merle Hodge

**K. Secretaría
Secretariat
Secrétariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (CEPALC)

Gert Rosenthal, Secretario Ejecutivo
Reynaldo Bajraj, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto
Ernesto Ottone, Secretario de la Comisión
Miriam Krawczyk, Jefa, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo, Secretaria Adjunta de la Comisión
Laura López, Jefa, Unidad de Servicios de Información
Adriana Valdés, Directora, División de Documentos y Publicaciones
Diane Alméras, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
Isabelle Kempf, Oficial de Gestión de Programas, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
Lois Oppenheim, Investigadora Asociada, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
Molly Pollack, Consultora, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
Nieves Rico, Consultora, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo
Pauline Van der Aa, Consultora, Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo

Sede Subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean/Bureau sous-régional de la CEPALC pour les Caraïbes

Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer

Sede Subregional de la CEPAL en México/ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico/Bureau sous-régional de la CEPALC à Mexico

Evangelina Mijares, Coordinadora para México y Centroamérica de la Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo

LISTA GENERAL DE DOCUMENTOS/GENERAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS**A. DOCUMENTOS DE TRABAJO/WORKING DOCUMENTS**

- LC/L.1052(CRM.7/1)
- Temario provisional
 - Provisional agenda
 - Ordre du jour provisoire
- LC/L.1059(CRM.7/2)
- Temario provisional anotado y organización de la séptima Conferencia Regional
 - Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the seventh session of the Regional Conference
 - Annotations de l'ordre du jour provisoire et organisation de la septième Conférence régionale
- LC/L.1062(CRM.7/3)
- Actividades de la Secretaría de la CEPAL relacionadas con la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo económico y social de América Latina y el Caribe desde el 1º de junio de 1994 hasta el 30 de agosto de 1997
 - Activities of the ECLAC secretariat from 1 June 1994 to 30 August 1997 relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean
- LC/L.1062(CRM.7/3)/Add.1
- Activities at the Caribbean subregional level to support the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 June 1994 to 30 August 1997
 - Actividades a nivel subregional del Caribe relacionadas con la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo económico y social de América Latina y el Caribe para el período comprendido entre el 1º de junio de 1994 y el 30 de agosto de 1997

LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)

- Acceso al poder y participación en la toma de decisiones. América Latina y el Caribe: políticas de equidad de género hacia el año 2000
- Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity looking to the year 2000

LC/L.1064(CRM.7/5)

- Desarrollo sostenible, pobreza y género. América Latina y el Caribe: medidas hacia el año 2000
- Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000

LC/L.1066(CRM.7/6)

- Documentos presentados a la séptima Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
- Documents presented at the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

B. DOCUMENTOS DE REFERENCIA/REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Documentos preparados especialmente para la séptima Conferencia Regional/Documents prepared specifically for the seventh session of the Regional Conference

DDR/1

- Hacia la igualdad de la mujer. Avances legales desde la aprobación de la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer
- Towards equality for women. Progress in legislation since the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

DDR/2

- Género, medio ambiente y sustentabilidad del desarrollo
- Gender, the environment and the sustainability of development

DDR/3

- Organizaciones no gubernamentales de mujeres y el Estado. Reflexiones sobre una relación
- Women's non-governmental organizations and the State. Reflections on a relationship

DDR/4
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- La educación de las mujeres: de la marginalidad a la coeducación. Propuestas para una metodología de cambio educativo

DDR/5
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- Violencia en la pareja. Tratamiento legal, evolución y balance

DDR/6
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- Compartir las responsabilidades familiares: una tarea para el desarrollo

LC/L.1065

- Directorio de organismos nacionales a cargo de las políticas y programas para las mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe
- Directory of national organizations dealing with programmes and policies on women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Documentos presentados a la séptima Conferencia Regional/Documents presented at the seventh session of the Regional Conference

LC/G.1855

- Programa de acción regional para las mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe, 1995-2001
- Regional programme of action for the women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001

LC/G.1850(CRM.6/7)

- Informe de la sexta Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
- Report of the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean

LC/L.731
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 11

- Feminización del sector informal en América Latina y el Caribe
- Feminization of the informal sector in Latin America and the Caribbean

LC/L.738
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 12

- Las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe. Un protagonismo posible en el tema de población
- Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: potential leadership in the area of population

LC/L.767
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 13

- Desarrollo y equidad de género: una tarea pendiente
- Development and gender equity: an uncompleted task

LC/L.881
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 14

- Changing power and autonomy of the Caribbean women
- Poder y autonomía. Roles cambiantes de las mujeres del Caribe

LC/L.947
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 15

- Formación de los recursos humanos femeninos: prioridad del crecimiento y de la equidad
- Female human resources development: growth and equity as priorities

LC/L.957
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 16

- Violencia de género: un problema de derechos humanos
- Gender-based violence: a human rights problem

LC/L.990
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 17

- La salud y las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe: viejos problemas y nuevos enfoques
- Health and women in Latin America and the Caribbean: old issues and new approaches

LC/L.836/Rev.1
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
N° 18

- Las mujeres en América Latina en los años noventa: elementos de diagnóstico y propuestas
- Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s: diagnostic elements and proposals

LC/L.1016
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
Nº 19
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- Reflexiones sobre los indicadores del mercado de trabajo para el diseño de políticas con un enfoque basado en el género

LC/L.1017
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
Nº 20
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- El sector informal urbano desde la perspectiva de género. El caso de México

LC/L.1034
Serie Mujer y Desarrollo
Nº 21
Sólo español/
Spanish only

- Mitos y evidencias del trabajo femenino urbano en América Latina

LC/L.460/Rev.6

- Selección de documentos y publicaciones de la CEPAL sobre la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo económico y social de América Latina y el Caribe
- Selected ECLAC documents and publications on the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean

Documentos que se encuentran a disposición de los participantes a la séptima Conferencia Regional/Documents available to participants at the seventh session of the Regional Conference

LC/L.876(MDM.19/1)

- Informe de la decimonovena reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
- Report of the nineteenth 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.872(MDM.20/3)

- Informe de la vigésima reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe

- Report of the twentieth 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.904(MDM.21/3)
- Informe de la vigésimo primera reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
 - Report of the twenty-first 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.966(MDM.22/4)
- Informe de la vigésimo segunda reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
 - Report of the twenty-second 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.999(MDM.23/3)
- Informe de la vigésimo tercera reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
 - Report of the twenty-third 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.1061(MDM.24/2)
- Informe de la vigésimo cuarta reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe
 - Report of the twenty-fourth 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

SANTIAGO CONSENSUS**The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh session,**

Recalling that at its sixth session, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September 1994, the Regional Conference identified the obstacles to the improvement of women's living conditions and position in society and formulated the proposals contained in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at that session,¹

Taking into account that, in the light of the international priorities identified by the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations on the basis of the Platform for Action,² and the regional priorities emanating from the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, the Presiding Officers elected at the sixth session of the Regional Conference—in consultation with member countries— established the goal for the seventh session of identifying more precisely the obstacles to the effective practice by women of their citizenship, particularly with respect to access to power and participation in decision-making, as well as those stemming from poverty, with a view to proposing measures to overcome them more rapidly,

1. Welcomes the documents prepared by the secretariat for the seventh session of the Regional Conference, acknowledging that they reflect the requirements expressed by the Governments with respect to the topics addressed therein;³

2. Notes with satisfaction that during the 1990s, the issue of gender has received growing attention in other intergovernmental forums, among others United Nations world conferences and the following regional meetings:

a) The Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Eradication (28 October-1 November 1996), which adopted the Directional Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication in the Caribbean;

¹ The Regional Programme of Action for Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, which was approved by the Governments at the sixth session of the Regional Conference, updates the Regional Plan of Action on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted in Havana in 1977 at the first session of the Regional Conference.

² These priorities are listed in the report of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 1995.

³ Especially with reference to the analysis and proposals contained in the documents entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)) and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1064 (CRM.7/5)).

b) The First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (São Paulo, 6-9 April 1997), which adopted the Consensus of São Paulo;⁴

c) The CARICOM/ECLAC/UNIFEM Post-Beijing Encounter: Caribbean Subregional Ministerial Conference (Georgetown, 6-8 August 1997), which adopted the Georgetown Consensus;

3. Reaffirms the agreements and commitments made at those meetings and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995);

4. Notes with satisfaction that in the period since the Fourth World Conference on Women there has been a strong move towards the inclusion of the issue of gender on governmental agendas and in State machinery, including the establishing and strengthening of national machineries for women's development in the region, and that various countries have adopted plans to promote equal opportunities for women in which, *inter alia*, measures are proposed for eradicating poverty and increasing women's participation in decision-making processes and their access to power;

5. Notes with interest the continuing work of women parliamentarians, politicians and ministers, who have been promoting the issue of gender at decision-making levels, as well as strengthening the coordination of women's non-governmental organizations at the regional, subregional and national levels;

6. Emphasizes the importance of the elements of the diagnostic analysis contained in the reports of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity towards the year 2000" and "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000";

7. Proposes, three years after the sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean,⁵ which served as the regional preparatory meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women:

a) To accelerate the process of implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action, the Regional Programme of Action and the CARICOM Plan of Action, by incorporating into national development strategies solutions to the problem of the inequality of women through public policies and programmes at the national level to train skilled human resources, productive employment programmes, changes in school curricula, amendments to existing legislation and the inclusion of the gender perspective in all programmes;

⁴ For the full text of the Consensus of São Paulo, see ECLAC, Report of the First Regional Conference in Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (LC/G.1972(CONF.86/4)), Santiago, Chile, 1997.

⁵ The sixth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by ECLAC in pursuance of its resolution 509(XXIII), was held in Mar del Plata in September 1994.

b) To apply to development an integrated approach linking social and economic policies in order to achieve equity, bearing in mind that, if development is to be sustainable, the gender perspective must be explicitly brought into these policies, since all plans, programmes and policies inevitably embody a certain viewpoint on gender and determine on that basis what roles individuals should play in society; to ensure that plans and programmes fully incorporate an appropriate gender perspective in their policies and decisions (“mainstreaming”) and provide for the equitable distribution of resources in society;

c) To ensure, in the course of the modernization of the government apparatus and public-sector reform which is under way in virtually all the countries of the region, that priority is given by the State to the social development agenda;

d) To strengthen national mechanisms or government offices for the promotion of women in the technical, budgetary and politico-administrative spheres, in order to enable them effectively to exercise their functions of managing and monitoring public policies to foster gender equity, which is the responsibility of all State entities;

e) To allocate in the national budget the necessary resources for the implementation of actions towards women’s advancement, especially those oriented to eradicating poverty among women and providing women with greater access to decision-making positions;

f) To incorporate the development of gender indicators by gathering all statistical information disaggregated by sex, especially in national censuses, economic and household surveys and other statistical registers; to create a data bank of gender indicators that can be periodically updated;

g) To stress the need for a participatory, coherent and coordinated approach among all partners in development in the implementation of national poverty eradication plans or programmes that fully take into account the gender perspective;

h) To introduce a gender perspective in environmental planning in order to ensure the inclusion of women in decision-making and in the evaluation of the impact of natural disasters, in keeping with the important contribution of women to economic and social development and environmental protection, which are mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

i) To design and implement policies to encourage women’s participation at the national, federal and local level; to incorporate the gender perspective in local government agendas and policies, especially those concerning training; and to use networks of women’s organizations to strengthen their activities and establish alliances with other institutions;

j) To incorporate gender analysis into studies of migratory movements, since the figures reveal an increasingly significant involvement of women in the phenomenon; to incorporate analysis of such aspects as the special features of migration deriving from women’s involvement, the impact it has on children, the disadvantages women face in comparison with men in the receiving cities, and the fact that in many communities male migration leaves women to cope with the problems of family subsistence and management of the household’s resources; to identify and analyse not only international migration, but also emerging phenomena such as movements of temporary workers and migrants and migration within and between cities, which have increased considerably over the past few decades;

k) To promote respect for the human rights of women who are refugees, migrants, internally displaced or otherwise uprooted and face problems of security due to the situation in which they live and their gender, as well as women who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation;

l) To encourage the countries to pass and review legislation concerning the situation of refugees and displaced persons so that it incorporates the gender perspective and explicitly recognizes gender-based persecution as one of the grounds on which a person may be considered a refugee;

m) To urge that all persons, especially women and girls and among them especially those who live in rural areas, are members of indigenous groups, or are uprooted, have the proper legal documentation, so that they are guaranteed the exercise of their rights;

n) To promote the recognition that power-sharing in all spheres, from private to public is the key objective towards which all actions should converge, since it is an essential requirement of democracy, and to promote the reinforcement of women's role as citizens, understood as their active participation in society via access to all decision-making levels;⁶

o) To give stronger consideration to affirmative, positive action, including such mechanisms as establishing a minimum percentage of representation for both sexes, in order to accelerate the achievement of gender equality in political representation, boards, commissions and other public appointments, and in the granting of national honours and awards, bearing in mind that some Governments within the region have already agreed to this;

p) To promote the establishment and support the strengthening and work of women's organizations and networks in order to help reinforce their capacity to influence public and political affairs in the countries;

q) To undertake to develop and institutionalize systems for structuring and compiling sex-disaggregated information on political participation, focusing on the differential access of women and men to political decision-making positions in organized civil society; to disseminate such information widely on a regular basis;

r) To design and develop, as part of the plans, programmes and public policies geared to ensuring the effective exercise of women's political rights, training strategies for men, with a view to arousing in them a sensitivity to women's political rights, and for women, with a view to helping to strengthen their capacity for leadership and for influencing public and political affairs; such training should have a strategic orientation and a sense of process, so that it does not translate into limited, isolated or uncoordinated activities;

s) To develop special plans for young women aimed at strengthening their capacity for and interest in leadership and influencing their choice of profession;

⁶ As has been recognized by the countries in various international instruments, most notably the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001.

t) To facilitate the exercise by women of their right to equal access to ownership and control of property, especially in rural areas;

u) To encourage shared responsibility for roles within the family so that they are more compatible with the actual activities of its members, promoting public policies to that end and the enactment of new legislation which contributes to an equitable distribution of duties and rights within the family; to design and implement, especially at the local level, programmes to support the family in performing new and complex functions, ensuring that they emphasize the aspects of solidarity and non-discrimination; and to establish child-care centres in neighbourhoods, business firms and government agencies;

v) To ensure maternity leave and promote the extension of leave to the fathers, in order to encourage both parents to share the responsibility for the care of their children, and to eliminate barriers to the hiring of women;

w) To promote programmes to enhance women's access to the labour market and to employment which take into consideration their control over resources; to implement political and legal reforms to prevent gender discrimination and set up mechanisms to help put an end to the division of labour between men and women and the segmentation of employment;

x) To establish mechanisms to encourage companies to hire and train women; to work to ensure that programmes of both the public and private sectors provide funding for training purposes which also benefit women;

y) To establish national mechanisms which permit the monitoring of compliance with international and national labour standards;

z) To create mechanisms for ensuring maximum dissemination of information on jobs, wages and legal norms; to give wide publicity to laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, both male and female, and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and to conduct campaigns to promote the image of women as subjects who have rights, capable of creating new frames of reference for themselves;

aa) To analyse the design and implementation of macroeconomic and structural adjustment policies and their impact on women's quality of life, with the participation of the Governments, ECLAC, the multilateral financial institutions and the organized women's movement, with the aim of taking appropriate measures to correct any negative effects of such policies;

bb) To urge regional and international organizations to provide financial and technical cooperation to conduct research and undertake other initiatives on women and poverty, paying particular attention to, inter alia, women's unpaid and low-paid work;

cc) To develop gender-sensitive teaching materials, classroom methods and curricula and gender-training programmes for teachers in order to break down gender stereotypes and offer non-discriminatory education and training aimed at the physical and intellectual development of girls and boys, recognizing that teacher training is an essential component of gender-sensitive programmes for eliminating the differential behavioural expectations of girls and boys that reinforce the division of labour by gender; to promote research into methods for improving teachers' capacity to impart gender-sensitive instruction and

to disseminate such methods widely in order to support the development of multicultural, gender-sensitive curricula in all areas of instruction;

dd) To support the establishment of education research centres, or strengthen those already existing, which would take responsibility for disseminating research findings within the region, thereby avoiding duplication and waste and maximizing scarce resources;

ee) To design and implement policies geared to raising women's earning potential (wage policies, job training and retraining, and support for microenterprises), ensuring adequate employment conditions in order to improve the situation of poor households;

ff) To carry out regular training programmes on gender awareness and planning for civil servants at both national and local government levels, in order to help them to analyse the different effects sectoral policies and programmes have on men and women and to ensure equality of opportunity;

gg) To accelerate action in promoting an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres through the implementation of:

- i) Gender analysis and planning;
- ii) Gender management systems;
- iii) Gender impact assessments;

hh) To formulate and implement pilot programmes on the national level that apply the gender dimension to the planning process; a suggested theme is poverty eradication, which requires a multisectoral approach, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness and operativity of this type of planning;

ii) To emphasize the prevention of violence against women and children and the prosecution of offenders and urge the enactment of legislation where it does not already exist; to promote legal aid for poorer women to ensure their access to such legislation where it does exist, and the provision of counselling services for the victim and rehabilitation for the perpetrator of violence against women; to develop appropriate training, advocacy and awareness programmes for judicial, legal, medical, social, educational, media and police personnel to sensitize them to the nature of gender-based acts and threats of violence, to ensure fair treatment of female victims and compliance with legislation on violence against women and children;

jj) To conduct studies and adopt measures to enforce the implementation of international agreements related to women, within institutional frameworks;

kk) To support the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its monitoring of the related Convention;

ll) To contribute to the process of elaborating and revising the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

mm) To support and foster the active participation of citizens, particularly women, in ensuring the accountability of State commitments regarding development;

nn) To promote affirmative actions and programmes in order to eliminate inequality based on age, ethnicity or race, as well as socio-economic status, and to facilitate the access to development of those groups which have been discriminated against and marginalized;

oo) To continue making efforts to allocate and distribute new and additional resources from all available funding sources for development;

pp) To formulate and improve programmes aimed at protecting the health and sexual and reproductive rights of women, in accordance with the provisions adopted at the Cairo and Beijing Conferences;

qq) To develop and strengthen comprehensive preventive and health care programmes, designed specifically for women, that are accessible and cover both rural and urban areas and provide sufficient high-quality care, paying particular attention to the most common problems that limit their activity and shorten their lives, such as iron deficiency anaemia, malnutrition and frequent psychological and mental problems, often overlooked;

rr) To promote information, education and appropriate preventive and support services on sexual and reproductive health for adolescents, recognizing that pregnancy in adolescence has social and economic effects;

ss) To endorse the proposals which place emphasis on education in the exercise of full citizenship and urge the Governments to guarantee, through their women's offices and in collaboration with organizations in society, the operation of leadership training programmes for women holding public office; such programmes should permit the development of self-esteem and technical and political capabilities by women policy-makers from a gender perspective;

tt) To increase the coverage and quality of education and eliminate existing barriers preventing girls and adolescent women from enjoying this right, fundamental for the full exercise of citizenship; to expand the coverage of adult literacy programmes for women;

uu) To effectively address issues of women's poverty, as well as women's absence from positions of decision-making, which requires a parallel concern for issues of masculinity and traditional male attitudes and behaviour and their impact on areas of sexuality and relations of power and domination of women, recognizing that this is a growing concern in many countries of the region which needs to be examined with a view to promoting more positive male attitudes and behaviour in the private and public spheres;

vv) To promote the conduct of research on women and governance and gender socialization with a view to arriving at strategies to improve women's involvement in power and decision-making at all levels; and

ww) To promote access by women to modern communication media and state-of-the art technology through ongoing training.

**GATHERING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, Chile, 18 November 1997

POLITICAL DECLARATION

Women from non-governmental organizations gathered at the meeting, "Women and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", salute government representatives to the seventh session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean and make known that:

Now that three years has passed since the Mar del Plata Conference and more than two since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, we find ourselves in a scenario in which, despite the generalized currency of representative democracy and the advances of women in the region, we confront increasing poverty, the fragility of some democratic institutions and a widening of the social gap between sectors of great wealth and those vast sectors excluded from economic growth.

This situation is exacerbated by the current model of development that stresses economic growth and limits State reform to the transformation of economic institutions, not giving due importance to social policies of equity and solidarity and the prevalence of human rights.

Recognizing the importance of the issues of political participation and poverty and valuing the willingness of Governments to dialogue with non-governmental organizations, we consider it essential to include in the agenda of Governments the absolute prevalence of human and civic rights. In order for this to be effective, it is necessary to assume clear commitments to:

1. Promote State reform that includes the modernization of judicial and electoral systems, in order to strengthen the accountability and efficiency of public administrations and to guarantee civic participation by women and men in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies.
2. Assure that State reform processes include proposals for gender equality; this means institutional changes in public policies in general and economic policies in particular and relations established by the State with civil society. The State must recognize women as political actors, establishing relations of equality and respect with them during negotiation.
3. Evaluate and follow up the impact of the implementation of institutional mechanisms and legal advances of women in different countries, considering their specific institutions and political culture and reinforcing positive experiences. We refer specifically to quota laws and State mechanisms for women.
4. Eliminate poverty and sexual segregation of the labour market, both consequences of cultural stereotypes, the sexual division of labour and the impact of the current economic model.

5. Promote poverty elimination policies that take into account all factors that jointly produce poverty, including personal factors -lack of self-esteem and autonomy and violence against women-, those of a social nature, such as the access to health care and education, and technical and financial factors.
6. Incorporate State, union and business actors in the design and implementation of these policies.
7. Ratify the integral, universal and indivisible nature of human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, as prerequisites for the development of individual capacities and hence for participation, empowerment and the elimination of poverty.
8. Demand from multilateral organizations the fulfilment of their commitments to follow up the Beijing Platform for Action. This includes correcting the negative impacts of adjustment policies on women.
9. Approve an additional protocol that will empower the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to receive and process accusations of violations of women's human rights.

None of this will be possible if Governments do not commit necessary and sufficient resources and provide those responsible in these matters with effective powers.

**WOMEN FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DEMAND:
PASS FROM AGREEMENTS TO ACTION**