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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

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE  
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

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## A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

### 1. Mandate and functions

The Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean is convened in compliance with the mandates of the Regional Plan of Action (1977)<sup>1</sup> and meets periodically at intervals of no more than three years. Pursuant to the Plan of Action, the Conference basically fulfills the following functions:

a) To determine regional and subregional needs for technical assistance and give support to all the United Nations bodies operating in the region in order that they can meet such needs;

b) To put forward recommendations to Governments and to ECLAC itself based on studies carried out by the secretariat on the most feasible way of implementing the agreements adopted by the United Nations regional conferences;

c) To review and appraise periodically the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations agencies;

d) To evaluate periodically the accomplishment of the Regional Plan of Action;

e) To provide a forum for the exchange of information which will facilitate mutual coordination and support of the programmes for the integration of women into economic and social development at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share the corresponding experience.

### 2. Purposes of the session

The seventh session of the Regional Conference also has the function of evaluating the accomplishment of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, adopted at the sixth session of the Regional Conference (Mar del Plata, September 1994) and promoting acceleration of its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> See ECLAC, Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (E/CEPAL/1042/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, November 1977, paragraphs 87 and 88.

## B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

### 1. Election of officers

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers 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, who will serve until new Presiding Officers are chosen at the following session.

According to the criteria earlier established by the Presiding Officers,<sup>2</sup> an effort should be made to ensure adequate geographical distribution and to respect the principle of rotation. The Presiding Officers feel it necessary to raise the subject of regular attendance at meetings as a "commitment the countries must make" if they are to serve.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will examine the provisional agenda and organize the work of the Conference.

The Conference will have before it the following provisional agenda for its consideration:<sup>3</sup>

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Activities of the ECLAC secretariat and 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

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<sup>2</sup> See ECLAC, Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (LC/G.1855), Santiago, Chile, January 1995, chapter E, and Report of the Fifth 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 (E/CEPAL/CRM.3/L.02), Santiago, Chile, 1983, which recommends the following:

"a) to put into practice the principle of rotation of duties of the Presiding Officers among the member countries of ECLA;

b) in order to provide greater facility and effectiveness to their functioning, to reduce the number of members of the Presiding Officers to the offices of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur;

c) to seek adequate geographical distribution, including as Presiding Officers representatives of Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Group and the Southern Cone."

<sup>3</sup> Document LC/L.1052(CRM.7/1) of 6 August 1997.

In deciding on the organization of work, the Conference may consider the proposals formulated by the Presiding Officers at their twenty-fourth meeting. Their recommendations were as follows:

a) In order to facilitate debate on items 4 and 5, two working groups open to all delegations should be formed and may meet in the morning and afternoon of 20 November and the morning of 21 November. The plenary Conference would then meet on 19 November and the afternoon of 21 November;

b) In the working groups, Argentina and Mexico should be in charge of presentation of agenda item 4 (document I), while Cuba and Honduras should be in charge of the presentation of agenda item 5 (document II);

c) At the request of the Presiding Officers, in August the ECLAC secretariat sent member countries guidelines to facilitate debate and asked them to summarize one or two topics to be considered.

3. Activities of the ECLAC secretariat and 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

The Chairperson will report to the participants on the activities of the Presiding Officers since the sixth session of the Regional Conference.

In addition, the delegations will have before them reports of the five meetings held by the Presiding Officers during their term of office.<sup>4</sup>

The ECLAC secretariat will report to the delegations on its activities from 1 June 1994 to 31 July 1997. The delegations will have before them the corresponding activities report.<sup>5</sup>

The representatives will also be provided with the document "Activities at the Caribbean subregional level relating to the integration of women into the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1 June 1994 to 30 August 1997" (LC/L.1062(CRM.7/3)Add.1).

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<sup>4</sup> See ECLAC reports on the following meetings 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: twentieth (LC/L.872(MDM.20/3)), twenty-first (LC/L.904(MDM.21/3)), twenty-second (LC/L.966(MDM.22/4)), twenty-third (LC/L.999(MDM.23/3)) and twenty-fourth (LC/L.1061(MDM.24/3)).

<sup>5</sup> Activities of the ECLAC secretariat from 1 June 1994 to 31 July 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)).

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

The ECLAC secretariat will present in plenary meeting a summary of the working document to be entitled "Access to power and participation in decision-making. Latin America and the Caribbean: policies for gender equity looking to the year 2000" (LC/L.1063(CRM.7/4)).

In accordance with the recommended organization of work, this agenda item will be considered in greater detail in the corresponding working group and will be presented by Argentina and Mexico.

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

The ECLAC secretariat will present in plenary meeting a summary of the working document to be entitled "Sustainable development, poverty and gender. Latin America and the Caribbean: working towards the year 2000" (LC/L.1064(CRM.7/5)).

In accordance with the recommended organization of work, this agenda item will be considered in greater detail in the corresponding working group and will be presented by Cuba and Honduras.

6. Consideration and adoption of the Conference agreements

The proposals that will be submitted to the Conference for consideration will be aimed at accelerating implementation of the Regional Programme of Action.

7. Other matters

The Presiding Officers agreed to propose that the Conference should commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the first Regional Conference and of the approval of the Regional Plan of Action and the fiftieth anniversary of the Commission on the Status of Women.