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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND  
OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON THE ADVANCEMENT  
OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 21 January 2019

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Mandate**

1. The twenty-fourth meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Plan of Action adopted at the first Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, and with the agreements adopted at the United Nations Inter-Agency coordination meeting for the Latin America and Caribbean region, held in Santiago on 6 May 1999.

### **Place and date of the meeting**

2. The twenty-fourth meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago on 21 January 2019, in the context of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

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

4. Representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also attended.

5. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

6. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

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<sup>1</sup> See annex.

## **B. AGENDA**

7. The following agenda was adopted:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
  2. Update on the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.
  3. Organization of work of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and preparations for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4–8 November 2019).
  4. Other matters.

## **C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

8. Mario Castillo, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs, and Jimena Arias Feijóo, Social Affairs Officer of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, both from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), welcomed the participants.

### Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

9. The Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs submitted the provisional agenda for consideration, which was adopted without amendment.

### Update on the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

10. Under this agenda item, Alejandra Valdés, Researcher with the Division of Gender Affairs, gave an update on the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and described its structure and main resources. She drew attention to the completed and planned work to build public officials' capacities through technical assistance in the Observatory's main areas of analysis: time use, placing a value on unpaid work, violence against women, mainstreaming the gender perspective into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gender equality policies and plans. She also listed the main challenges the Observatory faced in 2019, which mainly consisted of improving the quality of available data; aligning the Observatory's indicators with the indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; generating new options for visualizing the information for users of the web page and for the purposes of dissemination and press; updating information continuously; and inter-agency cooperation. In the period 2017–2018, visits to the Observatory website had increased (by around 141%) and its positioning in Internet search engine results had improved. Lastly, she urged the agencies present to bolster inter-agency efforts by sharing publications that could be disseminated through the "Reports and studies" section of the Observatory website and by contributing input for resources disseminated jointly, such as "Notes for Equality", videos and brochures.

11. The representative of UN-Women said that the Entity was committed to continued collaboration with the Observatory, underlining the importance of deepening inter-agency cooperation in the context of the reform of the United Nations. She also noted the synergy between the Entity and the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Commission of the Americas of ECLAC.

12. The representative of UNFPA welcomed the update on the Observatory and reiterated the call for it to be strengthened and brought into line with the processes of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the follow-up indicators of the Montevideo Consensus. She presented the UNFPA regional initiative on adolescence and youth, demographic groups considered priorities by the Fund, and highlighted the work to measure the economic impact of teenage pregnancy, an issue on which the Fund could collaborate with the Observatory. She also expressed concern about the rise of anti-rights groups in the region and called for reflection on how United Nations agencies could jointly address that threat.

13. The representative of OHCHR said that the topics covered by the Office were the same as those dealt with by the Observatory. She reported on the legislative work being carried out by the Office of the High Commissioner on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, domestic workers and women with disabilities, offering it as input for the Observatory. She also stressed the importance of the *Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killing of women (femicide/feminicide)*,<sup>2</sup> and said that the Office stood ready to cooperate with the Observatory on that issue.

14. The representative of FAO asked what the mechanism and coordinated inter-agency response would be with respect to monitoring each of the targets of SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), considering the specific tasks of each agency. In that regard, she said that FAO had worked on the methodology for indicator 5.A.2 (Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control), which should be shared in the Statistical Commission of the Americas, so that all agencies would be aware of the global methodologies and work in a coordinated manner.

15. The UNDP representative confirmed the Programme's interest in supporting the Observatory and expressed thanks for the invitation to form part of this important mechanism. She also reported on the joint work on femicide carried out by the Programme and the Observatory in the framework of SDGs 5 and 16 and the "Spotlight" project, and referred to other issues of interest to UNDP in relation to monitoring, such as women's engagement in public institutions. Lastly, she stressed that inter-agency cooperation should be strengthened ahead of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a meeting of feminist economists to provide inputs for the position document to be presented on that occasion.

16. The representative of UNESCO welcomed the work carried out by the Observatory and echoed the call made by the representative of FAO to strengthen inter-agency cooperation.

17. The representative of ILO proposed a more active collaboration with the Observatory, to be coordinated later, on issues related to the future of work for women.

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<sup>2</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), *Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killing of women (femicide/feminicide)*, Panama, 2014.

18. The representative of UNHCR shared the main themes of the Office's work in the area of gender and said that data were being collected that could serve as input for the position paper of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. The representative of UNICEF presented the work being carried out by the Fund in collaboration with the Observatory to develop a regional indicator on child marriage. She also said that the Fund had incorporated an intergenerational perspective into its work, in an effort to understand how gender inequalities were reproduced from one generation to the next.

20. The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women of OAS offered to share with the Observatory the work carried out by the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) on 300 indicators, which included responses from 28 countries received as part of the third round of multilateral evaluation of the implementation of the Convention.

21. Lucía Scuro, Social Affairs Officer of the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was an opportune moment for inter-agency cooperation with the Observatory and urged the agencies to participate in that process.

Organization of work of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and preparations for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4–8 November 2019) (agenda item 3)

22. The Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC informed the delegations about the organization of the work of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at which the annotated index of the position paper for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be presented, as would countries' voluntary reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. She encouraged United Nations agencies to report on their activities related to the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy.

23. Turning to the preparations for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago from 4 to 8 November 2019, she reported on the main milestones on the path to the Conference, which, in addition to the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers, would include three subregional preparatory meetings: one with the countries of South America; one with Mexico and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central America; and one with the English- and Dutch-speaking countries of the Caribbean.

24. She then urged agencies to share, within a flexible three-month period, their contributions to the position paper for the next session of the Regional Conference, and said that it was important to have data from UNESCO, specifically on the presence of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. She invited the organizations to participate in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular by organizing parallel events, which could be announced through the Conference website.

25. Lastly, she said that a guide was being prepared on drafting national reports on progress in the application of the Montevideo Strategy, prepared in line with the requirements of the comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

26. The representative of UNFPA called on the agencies to discuss providing financial support for civil society participation in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure a diverse group of stakeholders.

Other matters (agenda item 4)

27. The representatives of UN-Women, UNDP, FAO and OAS said that the need for information on the political context in which the next session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would be held should be taken into account, owing to the various changes of government and the reconfigured political scenario for gender equality in the region.

28. The Social Affairs Officer of the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, Jimena Arias, said that the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2019, could be a barometer of authorities' political positions on mechanisms for the advancement of women.

29. The representatives of UNDP and FAO recalled that there would be various changes of government in the region after the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which could reshape the political landscape on gender equality issues, and suggested mapping the actors for the Conference.

30. Lastly, the Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs said that, while there had been developments in the region in terms of authorities and their political positions, a significant number of countries still included the Regional Gender Agenda and the Montevideo Strategy in their national frameworks and policies. It was therefore expected that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women would confirm the follow-up commitments at their fifty-eighth meeting and agree to avoid any backwards steps.



## Annex

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