UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC
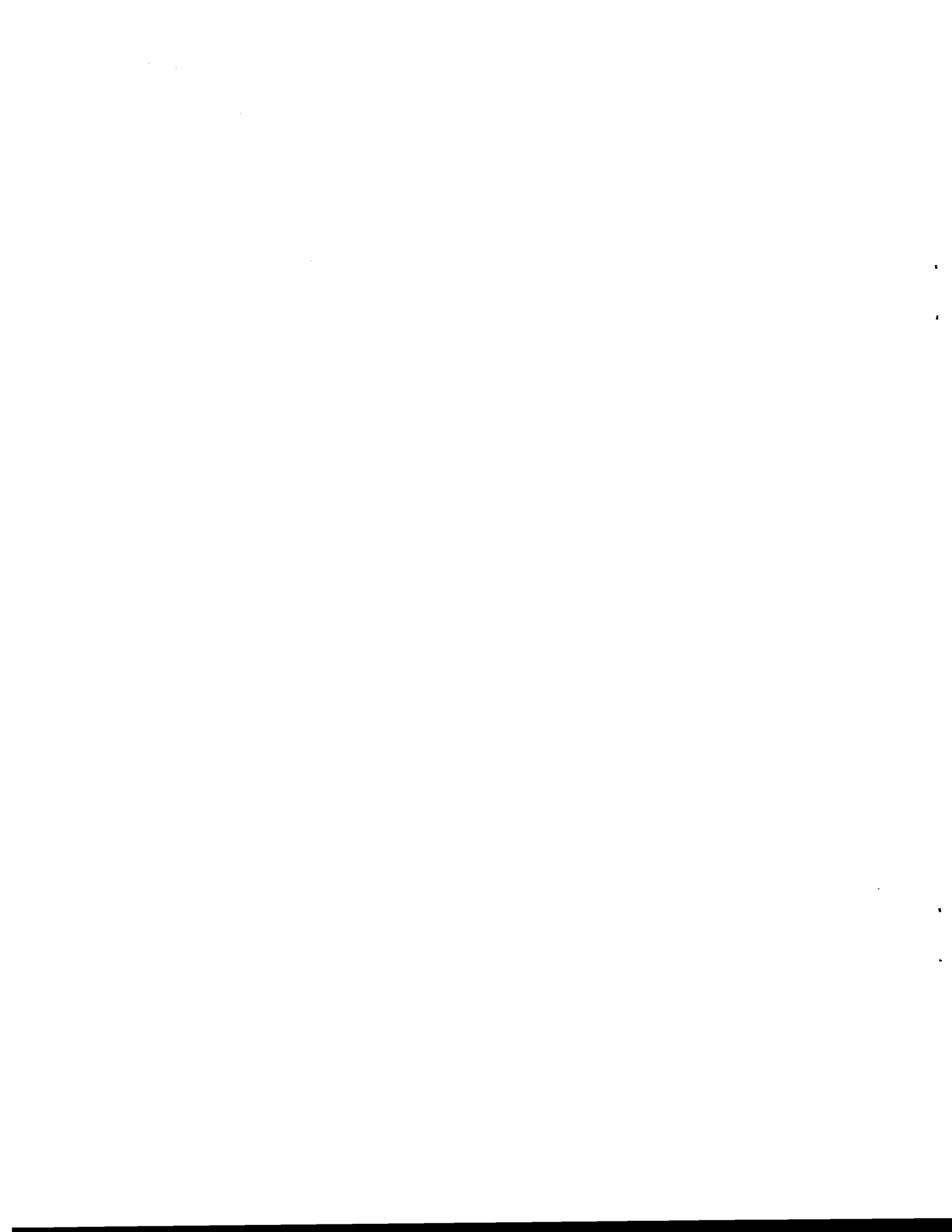
Thirty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean

Mexico City, 9 June 2004

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1

A. BACKGROUND

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) consisting of high-level authorities with responsibility for issues relating to the status of women and for policies to ensure gender equity in the countries of the region. It is the foremost intergovernmental forum in the region for the analysis of public policies from a gender perspective. The Conference is a permanent body convened at regular intervals in fulfilment of the mandates contained in the 1977 Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, whose period of implementation was extended under the Lima Consensus adopted at the eighth session of the Regional Conference, held in February 2000. Both of these documents reflect the regional agenda, which is shaped by the international commitments undertaken at the Fourth World Conference on Women and other world conferences.

At their thirty-fifth meeting, held in Havana, Cuba, in April 2003, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference agreed to hold their thirty-sixth meeting the day before the start of the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held from 10 to 12 June 2004 in Mexico City.[1]

At their current meeting, the Presiding Officers will focus primarily on organizing the work of the ninth session of the Regional Conference.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.   Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will have before them the following provisional agenda (LC/L.2108 (MDM.36/1)) for their adoption or modification:

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Analysis of the activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat since the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers

3. Review of documentation for the ninth session of the Regional Conference

4. Organization of work during the ninth session of the Regional Conference: informal briefing on the next meeting of the Presiding Officers and analysis of a possible draft declaration to be adopted by the Regional Conference

5. Other matters

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[1]   Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1944(MDM.35/4)), Santiago, Chile, July 2003, agreement 19.

2. **Analysis of the activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat since the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers**

The member countries represented by the Presiding Officers will report on the activities carried out to support the preparations for the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and on the drafting of the national reports to be presented at the Conference; these reports will be based on the information provided in response to the questionnaire sent to Governments on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the agreements adopted at the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". Subsequently, on 11 June, a meeting will be devoted exclusively to the presentation of reports by all the countries of the region.

The ECLAC secretariat will report on the preparatory activities for the ninth session of the Regional Conference and especially on the studies prepared for this event, the contributions of other United Nations agencies and the participation of non-governmental organizations and representatives of civil society as observers.

3. **Review of documentation for the ninth session of the Regional Conference**

The ECLAC secretariat will introduce the documents that will be distributed to delegations for their consideration at the Conference.

4. **Organization of work for the ninth session of the Regional Conference: informal briefing on the next meeting of the Presiding Officers and analysis of a possible draft declaration to be adopted by the Regional Conference**

The secretariat will explain that the organization of the work of the Regional Conference was based on a recommendation formulated by the Presiding Officers at their thirty-fifth meeting, to the effect that the work of the ninth session should be divided into an ongoing plenary meeting and two parallel thematic meetings on each of the two thematic areas tentatively referred to as poverty, economics and gender equity and empowerment, institution-building and gender equity.[2] In compliance with this agreement, it is proposed that two panels open to all delegations should meet simultaneously in the morning and afternoon of 11 June in order to facilitate the discussions on the two issues selected for detailed consideration by the Conference. Each panel will analyse the relevant issues on the basis of presentations made by guest speakers invited by ECLAC. The plenary meetings will be held on 10 and 12 June.

The secretariat will report on the communications which some countries have addressed to ECLAC expressing their interest in serving as Presiding Officers. In addition, it will submit, for the Presiding Officers' consideration, a draft declaration for possible adoption by the Conference.

5. **Other matters**

Under this item, the delegations will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.

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[2] Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1944(MDM.35/4)), ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, July 2003, paragraph 45, agreement 13.