



ECLAC

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**REPORT OF THE FORTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santo Domingo, 14 October 2013

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their forty-ninth meeting on 14 October 2013 in Santo Domingo.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries serving as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Dominica, Grenada, Honduras, Japan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

4. A representative of Montserrat, an associate member of the Commission, was also present at the meeting.

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO).

6. Also present at the meeting were representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and other guests.

Chair and Rapporteur

7. The composition of the Presiding Officers elected at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women was as follows:

<u>Chair:</u>	Brazil
<u>Vice-Chairs:</u>	Antigua and Barbuda
	Argentina
	Barbados
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
	Chile
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Dominican Republic

Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Jamaica
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay

Rapporteur: Mexico

B. AGENDA

8. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 3. Review of the documentation to be presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Organization of work during the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 5. Preliminary information on the composition of the incoming Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 6. Additional information on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 7. Other matters.

C. PROCEEDINGS

9. At the start of the meeting, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Eleonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil and Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sonia Montaña, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

10. After welcoming the participants, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean drew attention to the achievements made in recent years by the countries of the region in advancing the status of women, as reflected in their enhanced physical and economic autonomy, growing participation in political life and greater representation in decision-making spheres. She said that countries in the region were better able to identify challenges in those areas and the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean countries had demonstrated a deep commitment to the women's agenda, adding new issues, not least being the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as a means of reducing inequality.

11. She went on to say that recent progress towards fulfilment of the goals for gender equality and the empowerment of women had been possible thanks to public policies and action prompted to a great extent by the Brasilia Consensus, which had been adopted in July 2010 at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. There had been echoes of the eleventh session of the Conference at other global and regional forums, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, and the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, which took place in Quito in July 2012, as well as the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, both of which were held in Montevideo in 2013.

12. The Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil, outgoing Chair of the Presiding Officers, also highlighted the successes achieved by the member States of the Regional Conference since the adoption of the Brasilia Consensus in 2010 and said that the Conference needed to help to define the goals of the post-2015 development agenda, pointing out in particular the relevance of holding a regional discussion in order to consider, in 2015, the outcome of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women on its twentieth anniversary (Beijing+20).

13. The region faced a number of challenges including women's underrepresentation in political and institutional forums, the need to consolidate legislation on sexual and reproductive rights and the problem of trafficking in girls and women for sexual exploitation. Lastly, she underscored the importance of ensuring a comprehensive education for women from childhood, including training in ICTs, with a view to reducing social inequalities in all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

14. The Chair of the Presiding Officers submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the participants, who adopted it without amendment as the agenda of the meeting.

Report of the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

15. The Chair gave the floor to the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, who reported on the most recent activities conducted by the member countries of the Regional Conference, particularly in relation to issues such as violence against women and economic autonomy, which had been the subject of progressive awareness-building. In that respect, she said that ECLAC, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), had supported the Governments of the region with follow-up efforts, construction of indicators, measurement, increasing visibility and help in collecting appropriate statistical information in order to identify needs and gaps.

16. She also described the technical assistance that ECLAC, in particular the Division for Gender Affairs, the Social Development Division and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, provided in terms of developing national projects relating to care. Lastly, she reported on the strategy for mainstreaming the gender perspective into the structure and functioning of the Commission as well as its publications, citing as examples the incorporation of statistics disaggregated by sex into ECLAC institutional documents and the analysis of economic processes from a gender perspective.

Review of the documentation to be presented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

17. The Chair of the Presiding Officers reviewed the documentation that would be presented to the Conference at its twelfth session and gave the floor to the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, who described the documents that would be circulated to delegations for their consideration. She also announced that the documentation would be available in electronic format online on the ECLAC web page and through an application specifically developed for mobile devices.¹

18. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs discussed the position paper entitled *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold*, prepared jointly with the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC, which the Executive Secretary would be presenting on Tuesday, 15 October 2013. With respect to the reference documents, she mentioned specifically the report “Strategy for mainstreaming gender at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2013-2017”.

Organization of work during the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

19. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs listed the preparatory activities for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women and for the various side events, drawing attention to the contributions made by the host country, the Dominican Republic, and by the delegations of other countries, as well as those organized by other United Nations agencies. She mentioned that the representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups would be attending as observers. She presented the programme of work proposed for the conference and the composition of the eight panels of experts invited by ECLAC and of the round tables that would be held on 15, 16 and 17 October to cover the issues selected for more in-depth consideration by the Conference.

Preliminary information on the composition of the incoming Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 5)

20. The secretariat reported on the initial indications received by ECLAC from the countries that had expressed an interest in serving as incoming Presiding Officers. The participating delegations were urged to indicate within the next few days their interest in participating in that capacity, as those proposals would be presented for approval prior to the closure of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference.

¹ See [online]: <http://www.eclac.org/12conferenciamujer/>.

Additional information on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

21. The ECLAC secretariat described the work dynamic proposed for the discussion of the draft agreements and the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs announced the media that would be made available to the delegations and other participants to facilitate communication and participation throughout the session of the Conference.

Other matters (agenda item 7)

22. No other matter having been raised, the meeting was brought to a close.

Annex

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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PANAMÁ/PANAMA

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B. Miembros asociados Associate members

MONTSERRAT

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C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas **United Nations bodies**

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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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D. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

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Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (IFAD)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA)

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E. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations

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Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Rosina Wiltshire, CARICOM Advocate for Gender Justice, Barbados, email: rosinaew@yahoo.com

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Manuel Sánchez, Representante en la República Dominicana, email: manuel.sanchez@iica.int
- Johana Rodríguez, Especialista en Desarrollo Rural Sostenible, Costa Rica, email: johana.rodriguez@iica.int

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

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- Belkys Mones, Especialista Principal, República Dominicana, email: bmones@oas.org
- Pamela Ogando, Consultora, email: pogando@oas.org

Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA)/Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration

- Lourdes M. Pérez, Asesora, email: lperez@sieca.int

Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB)

- Beatriz Morán Márquez, Directora, División de Asuntos Sociales, Madrid, email: bmoran@segib.org

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)/Central American Integration System

- Miosotis Mercelina Rivas Peña, Secretaria Técnica de la Mujer, email: mrivas@sica.int
- José Rigoberto Rosales Pérez, Asistente Técnico en Autonomía Económica de las Mujeres, El Salvador, email: rrosales@sica.int
- Ana María Lemus, Encargada de Cooperación y Relaciones Interinstitucionales, email: alemus@sica.int

Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR)/Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

- Adriana Mendoza Agudelo, Asesora, Ecuador, email: adriana.mendoza@unasursg.org

**F. Otras organizaciones
Other Organizations**

Agencia Alemana de Cooperación Internacional (GIZ)/German Agency for International Cooperation

- Peter Dineoiger, Director de Programa ULACEFS-GIZ, Colombia, email: peter.dineiger@giz.de
- Ismael Contreras, Asesor, Colombia, email: Ismael-contreras@giz.do

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)/Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

- Micaela Parras, Responsable de Programas de Cooperación, Embajada de España en República Dominicana, email: Micaela.parras@aecid.org.do
- Manuel Alba Cano, Responsable de Programas de Cooperación, República Dominicana, email: m.alba.cano@gmail.com

Centro de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo/International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

- Francisco Cos Montiel, Senior Program Specialist, email: fcos-montiel@idrc.ca

**G. Secretaría
Secretariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Luis F. Yáñez, Oficial a Cargo, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Officer in Charge Office of the Secretary of the Commission, email: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Sonia Montaña, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs
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