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

Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-4 June 1999

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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 twenty-eighth meeting from 3 to 4 June 1999 in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following ECLAC member countries and associate members serving as Presiding Officers: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles and Paraguay. A representative of Peru attended as a special guest. Representatives from the following programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system also attended: World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), World Food Programme, and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (IACW/OAS) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Chairperson and rapporteur

3. The meeting was chaired by the Minister-Director of the National Women's Service of Chile, Josefina Bilbao, Chairperson of the Presiding Officers. The duties of rapporteur were performed by the delegation of Mexico, which was headed by Guadalupe Gómez-Maganda, General Coordinator of the National Commission on Women.

Documentation

4. The delegations had before them the following documents: Guía para la presentación de los informes orales y escritos de los países miembros (ECLAC, April 1999); Gender indicators for follow-up and evaluation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, and the Beijing Platform for Action (LC/L.1186); Social Panorama of Latin America 1998 (LC/G.2050-P); Report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.1188(MDM.27/44)); "Policy paper" (the final version of the document adopted on 16 December 1998 by the Working Group on Women and the Gender Perspective for presentation at the Meeting of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the

Caribbean and of the European Union; Resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session; Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (LC/G.1855); Equidad de género para América Latina y el Caribe en los albores del siglo XXI. Lineamientos para la discusión (ECLAC, May 1999); Derechos humanos y paz para América Latina y el Caribe en los albores del siglo XXI. Lineamientos para la discusión (ECLAC, May 1999), and a summary of the main outcomes and conclusions of the Latin American Seminar of Women's Bureaux, held from 6 to 8 April 1999.

B. AGENDA

5. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda for their twenty-eighth meeting:
 1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Review of the activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat since the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers
 3. Follow-up to major United Nations world conferences and summits, activities of other intergovernmental organizations, provisions concerning gender mainstreaming and agreements adopted concerning the advancement of women
 4. Activities of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session, in particular the follow-up to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
 5. Report on the activities of specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations
 6. Activities preparatory to the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, first half of 2000)
 7. Planned activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat
 8. Other matters

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

6. The Deputy Director of the Ministry of Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles declared the meeting open, welcomed participants and wished them success in their deliberations.

7. The Chairperson of the Presiding Officers recalled the basic objectives of the meeting, namely to exchange experiences and to make headway with preparations for the eighth session of the Regional Conference. The Fourth World Conference on Women had undeniably been an important milestone in the process of improving the status of women, and the preparatory work done at the regional level had enabled delegations to arrive at that Conference with sound proposals. One of the most noteworthy outcomes had been the establishment in almost all countries, of national women's bureaux; thus, they could look forward to the future with optimism.

8. Interest in the human rights of women had been aroused throughout the world, and there could be no turning back. There was a trend towards consolidation in this area, and one could either be a passive onlooker or work to encourage and reorient such efforts. The Presiding Officers were clearly in favour of the second option, an approach which would undoubtedly lead to a successful outcome and be another major step forward towards the advancement of women.

9. The Secretary of the Commission expressed satisfaction that the Presiding Officers were meeting in the Netherlands Antilles, especially in Curaçao, and thanked the authorities for their hospitality and the support given to the Secretariat in preparing for it. The Presiding Officers constituted a valuable mechanism for liaison with Governments in following up on plans and agreements. Indeed, their successful performance had demonstrated the validity and relevance of continuing to hold regular meetings and of establishing even closer cooperation ties between the countries and ECLAC.

10. The theme chosen for the eighth session of the Regional Conference —“Gender equity: the foundation for a just and equitable society”— was closely related to the theme of the next biennial session of ECLAC. Hence, the discussions at the women's conference would make a valuable contribution to the analysis of gender equity at the ECLAC forum.

11. The Minister for Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles reaffirmed his government's full commitment to the activities undertaken at the regional level for the advancement of women. The efforts of the Commission in this sphere were well known; indeed, it played a prominent role in disseminating information on the status of women in the region and in incorporating the gender perspective in national and regional policies.

12. The Netherlands Antilles intended in the following months, to participate in evaluating the implementation of measures envisaged in the Platform for Action in the Caribbean region in order to consolidate the progress achieved to date and promote further advances. Since the

advancement of women went hand in hand with overall progress in any country, it was essential that, on the eve of the twenty-first century, Governments should reaffirm their commitment to development, equality and peace.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

13. The representative of Mexico requested that the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the special session of the General Assembly which would examine the progress achieved since the Fourth World Conference on Women should be considered under agenda item 4.

14. The representative of Chile proposed including under agenda item 8 the issue of technical assistance provided by the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC to the National Women's Service of Chile.

Review of the activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat since the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers (agenda item 2)

15. (a) The delegations of member countries and associate members of ECLAC serving as Presiding Officers reported on the liaison work carried out and on the status of consultations made in order to pinpoint more precisely the issues to be addressed at the eighth session of the Regional Conference and to link them to the strategic areas of the Regional Programme of Action which had not been previously examined. They also reported on the specific activities carried out with respect to the two central issues to be discussed at the eighth session of the Regional Conference —gender equity and human rights, peace and violence— and on the development of the system of national indicators in terms of their relevance and compatibility with the evaluation envisaged for the year 2000.

16. The representatives of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and the Netherlands Antilles said that their responses to the questionnaire from the Division for the Advancement of Women on the fulfilment of the Beijing Platform for Action were being processed or had already been sent to Angela King, Assistant-Secretary General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women. With respect to the establishment of a system of horizontal cooperation among countries of the region, the representatives of Chile, Cuba and Mexico reported on bilateral meetings and exchanges between women's bureaux officials that had been held during the period with a view to enabling them to benefit from each other's experiences.

17. In accordance with a specific request formulated at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers, delegations submitted, in addition to their oral presentations, detailed written reports based on the guidelines provided by the Women and Development Unit and listing all the activities relating to the advancement of women and the adoption of the gender perspective carried out by their Governments and by non-governmental organizations concerned with women's issues since the previous meeting.

18. (b) The Secretary of the Commission presented the *Social Panorama of Latin America, 1998*, containing an analysis of the most representative indicators of trends in the region during the period under review. He said that growth in the region could not be considered to have been poor given the state of the global economy but, notwithstanding the headway made at the macroeconomic level, it had been less than satisfactory in qualitative terms. Both poverty in general and extreme poverty in particular were back to 1980 levels, while income distribution, equity, employment, unemployment and social expenditure indicators reflected the major efforts made by countries over the last few decades.

19. Although the overall situation was difficult and complex, one positive point worthy of mention was that the expenditure of countries during the period had targeted progressive sectors, such as education and health, and therefore improved equity levels could be anticipated for the future. Moreover, the region had achieved some degree of economic diversification, and that had enhanced its crisis response capabilities.

20. The Secretary of the Commission also reported that he was continuing to collaborate with the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean with a view to producing a similar study on that subregion in the near future, since there was currently a lack of standardized information.

21. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit then presented the study entitled, *Gender Indicators for follow-up and evaluation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 and the Beijing Platform for Action*, in the preparation of which ECLAC had also used indicators provided by other United Nations bodies. One important aspect of the study was the fact that it referred to data bases that were available in the countries, which made it very practical. Moreover, given the large number of reports that had to be circulated to countries, the indicators had been designed in such a way as to monitor the follow-up of three international instruments and respond to the questionnaires sent by the Division for the Advancement of Women.

22. The document was also expected to be useful for purposes of comparison, since it focused on points of convergence between central issues of the Platform for Action and the Regional Programme of Action, as well as the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas. ECLAC had already sent it to the countries, and the proposed indicators had been used at technical meetings held in the Caribbean. The representative of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean reported that at the first such meeting, held in Jamaica, the indicators had been tested, in particular for identifying concrete examples of advances and hindrances in the countries of the subregion.

23. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit pointed out that the document had also been used for technical assistance provided to the National Women's Service in Chile. In any event, the range of indicators could be much wider and the validity of those proposed by ECLAC would be revealed in the reports to be presented; countries were therefore asked to communicate their comments on the matter.

24. The representative of the ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico said that funding had been received for implementation of a project on responsible parenthood in Central America, as part of its activities aimed at improving the living conditions of households and promoting equal participation by men and women in domestic tasks. Another purpose of the project was to develop a framework to facilitate horizontal cooperation and the exchange of experiences, in conjunction with Governments and civil society.

25. The Social Affairs Officer reported that the Unit had continued to update the *Directory of national organizations dealing with programmes and policies on women in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The fact that countries were continually sending updated information was evidence of their recognition of the value of the Directory and its practical usefulness. Since 1998, the Unit's publications in the Women and Development series, available, for the most part, in both Spanish and English, could be accessed at the ECLAC Internet Website. That site also included the complete text of the *Regional Programme of Action*, the *Directory of national organizations* and the document *Gender Indicators*. The Unit would continue to include the electronic versions of its new publications on the Website in order to facilitate access to them by government agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic centres throughout the region.

26. The Officer-in-Charge of the Unit reported that as part of the substantive activities in preparation for the eighth Regional Conference, the Secretariat was preparing documents on indicators relating to women's participation in decision-making, human rights, and citizenship and gender equity.

27. The Secretary of the Commission then pointed out that the Women and Development Unit had been strengthened in recent months: a new Chief had been designated, a new Social Affairs Officer had been appointed at headquarters in Santiago, and a Social Affairs Officer had been assigned to the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean. Clearly, those appointments would enhance the Unit's efficiency and its performance of broader functions in a context of greater continuity.

Follow-up to major United Nations world conferences and summits, activities of other intergovernmental organizations, provisions concerning gender mainstreaming and agreements adopted concerning the advancement of women (agenda item 3)

28. (a) The delegation of Cuba reported on the Latin American seminar on offices responsible for women's affairs, held in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) from 6 to 8 April 1999. The discussions at the seminar had focused on the strengths and weaknesses of government offices and women's movements, as well as on the opportunities available to them and the threats they faced in connection with efforts to mainstream the gender perspective in economic and social policy. The participants had also considered strategies for producing cultural change in regard to gender equity through the communications media. Under their conclusions and recommendations, they had identified as still pending a number of issues, including the

relationship between macro-economic policies and gender, the new international context and the integration of women's offices into the mainstream of development and global reforms.

29. (b) The representative of Argentina distributed to participants the latest version of the policy paper prepared by the working group on women and the gender perspective for presentation at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and of the European Union, scheduled to be held on 28 and 29 June in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The document contained a declaration of Heads of State and Government in which they reaffirmed the importance of guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for women and men and undertook to mainstream the gender perspective in public policies and in any programmes and actions that emerged from the Summit.

30. (c) The delegation of Chile distributed copies of the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Informal Meeting of Ibero-American Ministers for Equal Opportunities, which had been held at the initiative of her Government as part of the preparations for the ninth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in Havana (Cuba) on 15 and 16 November 1999. In the declaration, Heads of State and Government were urged to pursue and intensify their efforts to implement fully the principle of equality between men and women, to include the dimension of gender equality in all their development policies and projects, to promote affirmative action and to reinforce national mechanisms for ensuring equal opportunities.

Activities of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session, in particular the follow-up to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (agenda item 4)

31. The delegation of Mexico raised two issues that had been stressed in the discussions held during the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women: "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men" and "Initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action and preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000".

32. Furthermore, in keeping with its work programme, the Commission had completed its review of the implementation of the twelve areas considered in the Platform for Action, and adopted conclusions in that regard. It had also decided that at its 1999 and 2000 sessions, it would undertake a comprehensive study of the Platform with reference to the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

33. In response to the mandate received, the open-ended working group on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its fourth meeting, which ran parallel to the meetings of the Commission. The draft optional protocol prepared by the Working Group was endorsed by the Commission

and would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The draft optional protocol established a procedure for granting the right of petition with respect to the Convention and a procedure for investigating serious or systematic violations of the human rights set forth therein.

34. The representative of the Netherlands Antilles drew attention to the resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the participation of associate members of ECLAC at international meetings organized by the United Nations, and requested the Presiding Officers to adopt a similar resolution to facilitate the attendance of representatives of non-self-governing territories at the special session of the General Assembly scheduled for the year 2000.

Report on the activities of specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations (agenda item 5)

35. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit reported that the seventh meeting of specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system had been held on the previous day to discuss future activities for promoting the integration of women into the development of Latin America and the Caribbean. She read out the agreements adopted at the conclusion of that meeting, highlighting the activities preparatory to the eighth session of the Regional Conference and the commitments undertaken by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to prepare documents that would serve as inputs for the discussions of that session.

36. The UNICEF representative, who was also attending the meeting on behalf of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), reported that the strategies of the institutions to the year 2001 were directed towards a synergetic integration of the principal human rights instruments governing its work. A comprehensive policy was thus being applied to promote alliances with governments (both national and local), national entities for the advancement of women, other organizations and representatives of civil society.

37. The representative of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) recalled that ECLAC and PAHO had signed a cooperation agreement for the implementation of a study on health sector reform and gender equity. Also worth mentioning were the activities relating to the adoption of the gender perspective in PAHO programmes and projects in all countries, which were especially important as were the projects on domestic and family violence.

38. The Assistant Programme Director of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) said that the work of CARICOM member countries on women's issues was part of the Community's Plan of Action adopted in 1996 for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Under that plan, top priority was given to training activities and to the integration of the gender perspective in projects, in particular those relating to the elimination of violence against women, which remained an extremely serious problem despite the fact that most countries had enacted legislation in that area. Moreover, the CARICOM secretariat had recently carried out a study to

determine the needs and interests of women and the degree of integration of the gender perspective in planning.

39 The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS) said that the adoption by the OAS General Assembly of measures to increase the number of women holding senior executive posts and the decision to convene a meeting of ministers responsible for women's issues in the year 2000 were important steps forward. In addition, the Commission had continued its work in follow-up to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará), which to date had been signed by 29 OAS member States.

Activities preparatory to the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, first half of 2000) (agenda item 6)

40. The Officer-in-Charge of the Women and Development Unit reported that the ECLAC secretariat had drawn up some general guidelines for organizing documents on the two topics selected for consideration at the previous meeting, namely, gender equity, and human rights and peace. On that occasion, she recalled, the Presiding Officers had acknowledged that the two topics were closely related and that the gender perspective was a cross-cutting issue that influenced the formulation and implementation of public policy. It was also important to take into account the wide disparity in terms of the situation of women in the region, which, moreover, was not unrelated to macroeconomic processes. Hence the need to take into account phenomena such as globalization and State modernization, which helped to widen the perspective and the diagnostic analysis of the problem.

41. She then gave a brief summary of the guidelines; participants responded by suggesting various new points or different aspects of the selected topics for possible inclusion and consideration, in particular, women's cultural rights, the rights of women in non-self-governing territories, the impact of globalization on women and their right to organize, and the traffic in persons. Comments were also made on the general guidelines and were noted by the secretariat. (See section D, "Agreements reached" which includes observations on the specific work methodology).

42. The representative of Peru conveyed a formal offer by his Government to host the eighth session of the Regional Conference in Lima in the last week of February 2000. The Secretary of the Commission explained that ECLAC had expected that conference to be held in January, since the biennial session of ECLAC was scheduled for April; it was therefore decided that the ECLAC secretariat would be asked to set a mutually acceptable date in consultation with the Government of Peru.

Planned activities of the Presiding Officers and of the ECLAC secretariat (agenda item 7)

43. Under the agenda item 7, participants exchanged views on possible deadlines to be met for each of the planned stages of preparations for the next session of the Regional Conference. They also stressed the need for members to remain in constant touch with those countries not represented among the Presiding Officers, in order to enable them to contribute to the preparatory work. Specific responsibilities were assigned, as reflected in the agreements reached.

44. At the suggestion of the delegation of Mexico, countries were invited to comment on the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2000, also known as "Beijing +5". It was therefore agreed that the issue would be included in the agenda of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers.

Other matters (agenda item 8)

45. The representative of the Netherlands Antilles distributed among participants a copy of the draft resolution on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", adopted by the General Assembly on 19 March 1999, and urged countries to support full participation by associate members of the regional commissions at that forum.

D. AGREEMENTS REACHED

46. The countries represented by Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean arrived at the following agreements:

1. To recommend that member countries represented among the Presiding Officers should report on the factors that hinder or could hinder their future participation in meetings of this forum;
2. To reiterate the recommendation made at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers, namely that member countries "make every effort to fulfil their commitments as Presiding Officers, particularly in terms of attendance";
3. To address a letter of congratulations to the new members of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC and letters of thanks respectively to the incumbent Officer-in-Charge for the work carried out during the transition period and to the consultant who served as focal point for the programme on women at the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean;
4. To recommend that the eighth session of the Regional Conference adopt a resolution requesting support for associate members of ECLAC to enable them to participate in

the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be held at United Nations Headquarters in June 2000;

5. To ask the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to submit written reports on their activities to the Presiding Officers;
6. To ask the ECLAC secretariat to give support to member countries serving as Presiding Officers to enable them to maintain contacts with countries not represented on that bureau;
7. To take note that Mexico and Cuba will prepare a study on the topic "Gender equity" for presentation at the eighth session of the Regional Conference;
8. To take note that Chile will assume responsibility for analysis of the topic "Human rights and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean on the eve of the twenty-first century", and that the Netherlands Antilles is interested in helping with preparation of this paper and will confirm its participation within one week;
9. To accept the offer made by the Pan-American Health Organization to present to the eighth session of the Regional Conference a paper on the impact of health sector reforms on gender equity;
10. To adopt the guidelines presented by the ECLAC secretariat on the topics selected for consideration at the eighth session of the Regional Conference, to which will be added the topics proposed by the countries attending the present meeting, together with any relevant observations and recommendations it receives from countries;
11. To urge countries to send the necessary information to those responsible for the presentation of thematic reports to the eighth session of the Regional Conference, so that the relevant documents may be regional in scope;
12. To request that the reports to be presented at the eighth session of the Regional Conference on the topics selected focus on progress achieved and obstacles confronted. To suggest also that they provide a regional view of the situation and propose goals and guidelines for the immediate future;
13. To ask countries to send to the secretariat their comments on the topics selected by 30 June at the latest, in order that they may be transmitted to the countries responsible for the relevant studies;
14. To request the secretariat to transmit to countries the background papers prepared on the two topics selected for consideration at the eighth session of the Regional

Conference, in order that they may be reviewed by the Presiding Officers at their twenty-ninth meeting;

15. To hold the twenty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers in Santiago, Chile in early November 1999;
16. To take note of the offer made by the Government of Peru to host the eighth session of the Regional Conference in Lima in the last week of February 2000, and to entrust the secretariat of ECLAC with the mandate of determining the most appropriate dates for the meeting, in consultation with the Government of Peru;
17. To take note of the secretariat's offer to send to the countries a list of the non-governmental organizations that were invited to participate in the seventh session of the Regional Conference;
18. To hold informal consultations with countries, with a view to selecting potential candidates for posts as Presiding Officers, who —subject to their actual availability— would assume office at the eighth session of the Regional Conference;
19. To examine, at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers, the outputs of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the theme “The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women”.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

States members and associate members of the Commission

Members of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

ARGENTINA

Magdalena von Beckh Widmanstetter, Directora de la Mujer, Subsecretaría de la Mujer

CHILE

Josefina Bilbao, Ministra-Directora, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM)

Teresa Rodríguez, Jefa, Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM)

CUBA

Tamara Columbié Matos, Especialista en Cooperación Internacional, Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

Ana Milagros Martínez, Federación de Mujeres Cubanas

MEXICO

Guadalupe Gómez-Maganda, Coordinadora General, Comisión Nacional de la Mujer

Elía del Carmen Sosa N., Subdirectora de Asuntos Internacionales de la Mujer, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Laurenso A. Abraham, Minister, Ministry of Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs

Dr. Keith Carlo, Director, Department of Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs

Vivienne Daflaar de Leander, Deputy Director, Department of Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs

Joëlle de Jong-Marcelina, Head, Division of International Organizations, Bureau of Foreign Relations

Ann Phillips, Policy Advisor on Gender Issues, Department of Welfare, Family and Humanitarian Affairs

PARAGUAY

Benefrida Espinoza, Directora, Unidad de Programas y Proyectos con Cooperación Externa, Secretaría de la Mujer

Observer

PERU

Carlos Polo Castañeda, Consejero, Embajada del Perú en Venezuela

Programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Gladys Acosta Vargas, Regional Adviser on Women and Gender Equity

World Food Programme (WFP)

Guillermina Segura de Usera, Representative

World Health Organization / Pan-American Health Organization (WHO-PAHO)

Marijke Velzeboer-Salcedo, Programme Coordinator of the Women, Health and Development Department

Intergovernmental bodies

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Gemma Tang Nain, Deputy Programme Manager

Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (IACW/OAS)

Mercedes Kremenetzky, Senior Specialist

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Clarita Solis-Araya, Director of Sustainable Rural Development and Advisor to the Director General

Saray Montero, Special Consultant on Gender and Youth

ECLAC secretariat

Ernesto Ottone
Secretary of the Commission

María Nieves Rico, Officer-in-Charge
Women and Development Unit

Diane Alméras
Social Affairs Officer
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ECLAC subregional headquarters in Mexico

Asha Kambon
ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean