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

Online meeting

22 August 2019

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1–6	3
Place and date of the meeting	1	3
Attendance.....	2–5	3
Chair	6	3
B. AGENDA	7	4
C. PROCEEDINGS	8–18	4
Annex 1 Agreements.....	-	7
Annex 2 List of participants.....	-	8

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 a special online meeting on 22 August 2019.

Attendance¹

2. Representatives of the following member countries participated in the meeting in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay.
3. Also participating were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Dominica, Grenada, Nicaragua, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago.
4. Participants also included representatives of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the meeting: Cotidiano Mujer/Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía; Trabajo y Familia A.C.; Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (RSMLAC) and Sombrilla Centroamericana – Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local.

Chair

6. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference, were as follows:

Chair: Uruguay

Vice-Chairs: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

¹ See annex 2.

B. AGENDA

7. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Ratification of the composition of the board and the secretariat of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements.
 3. Consideration and adoption of the rules of procedure of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements.
 4. Endorsement of the opening of the first call for proposals by women's and feminist organizations and movements, in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 5. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS

8. At the opening session, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Uruguay, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, welcomed the participants and said that they were expected to ratify the composition of the board and the secretariat of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements; to adopt the fund's rules of procedure; and to endorse the opening of the first call for proposals by women's and feminist organizations and movements, in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

9. The Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, submitted the provisional agenda for consideration by the Presiding Officers, who adopted it without amendment.

Ratification of the composition of the board and the secretariat of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements (agenda item 2)

10. The Chair recalled that the board of the fund would be chaired by the Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She also said that Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Ecuador and Panama had offered to serve on the board of the fund and asked those countries to confirm that was the case. In addition, she noted that six representatives of civil society would participate in the fund's institutional structure: four would sit on the board (namely, María Eugenia Romero, representative of Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia; María de la Luz Garrido, representing Cotidiano Mujer-Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Tarcila Rivera, representative of Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas; and Sergia Galván, representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (RSMLAC)) and two would participate in the secretariat (Morena Herrera, representing Sombrilla Centroamericana-Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local; and Guacira de Oliveira, representative of the Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria and Articulação de Mulheres Brasileiras).

11. The representatives of Argentina, Ecuador and Panama expressed their thanks to the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico for preparing the draft rules of procedure of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements and reaffirmed that their countries wished to serve on the fund's board. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda confirmed in writing that her country wished to sit on the fund's board.

Consideration and adoption of the rules of procedure of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements (agenda item 3)

12. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay adopted the rules of procedure in general terms and said that operational and financing aspects of the regional fund should be clarified in due course.

13. The Chair said that those aspects would be clarified at the board's working sessions.

14. The representatives of Barbados, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago said that they would need to consult with their capitals and would send a written communication in due course.

Endorsement of the opening of the first call for proposals by women's and feminist organizations and movements, in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

15. The country representatives commended the efforts undertaken to prepare the document on the first call for proposals and said that they agreed that it should be launched in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago in November 2019.

16. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) congratulated the countries on the initiative to support civil society and said that the fund was an example of innovative financing methods. She said that UN-Women stood ready to fully support efforts to convene donors and to act as a strategic partner to the fund.

17. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Grenada, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay endorsed the opening of the first call for proposals by women's and feminist organizations and movement, in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The content of the call for proposals would be discussed by the States over the following months. They urged those countries that wished to make comments or to ask more specific questions, to do so before 6 September 2019.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 5)

18. The representatives adopted the agreements contained in annex 1 of this report.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their special meeting, held on 22 August 2019, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Thank* the National Women's Institute of Mexico for its proposal on the rules of procedure of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements;
2. *Ratify* the countries¹ and the four civil society organizations² that will sit on the board—which will be chaired by the Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean—and the composition of the secretariat of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements;
3. *Endorse*, in general terms, the rules of procedure of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements;
4. *Also endorse* opening of the first call for proposals by women's and feminist organizations and movements, in the framework of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in November 2019.

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Ecuador and Panama.

² Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia; Cotidiano Mujer - Articulación Feminista Marcosur; Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas; and Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States members of the Commission****ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representante/Representative:

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EL SALVADOR

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PERÚ/PERU

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B. Miembros asociados
Associate members

ANGUILA/ANGUILLA

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C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies

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