



XV Regional Conference
on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean
Buenos Aires, 7–11 November 2022

Buenos Aires
Commitment



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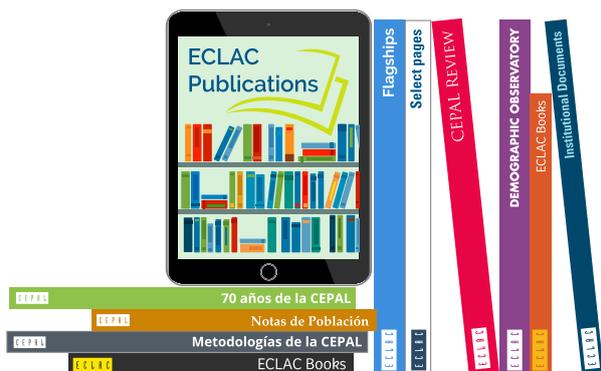


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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs

Executive Secretary

Raúl García-Buchaca

Deputy Executive Secretary
for Management and Programme Analysis

Ana Gúezmes García

Chief, Division for Gender Affairs

Sally Shaw

Chief, Documents and Publications Division

The *Buenos Aires Commitment* was adopted at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Government of Argentina and held in Buenos Aires from 7 to 11 November 2022.

The information in this publication (Buenos Aires Commitment and explanations of position) is taken from the draft report of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

United Nations publication

LC/CRM.15/6/Rev.1

Distribution: L

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Printed at United Nations, Santiago

S.23-00585

This publication should be cited as: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Buenos Aires Commitment* (LC/CRM.15/6/Rev.1), Santiago, 2023.

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Buenos Aires Commitment

The member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Buenos Aires from 8 to 11 November 2022,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, in particular Nos. 100, 102, 111, 156, 169, 183, 189 and 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement, 2021), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and ensure all the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by States in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (1994), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2014), the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2021; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) (2014), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the Paris Agreement (2016) and subsequent climate change agreements,

Confirming the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that make up the Regional Gender Agenda and are included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977), the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001 (1994), the Santiago Consensus (1997), the Lima Consensus (2000),

the Mexico City Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007), the Brasilia Consensus (2010), the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), the Santiago Commitment (2020) and in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013),

Bearing in mind that, at their sixty-first meeting, held in virtual format on 29 and 30 September 2021, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to “The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality” as the main theme for discussion at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,¹

Bearing in mind also the participatory process conducted in preparation for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which contributions from the member States of the Conference, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements, were compiled and incorporated,

Recognizing the persistence of gaps between men and women in the labour market, wages, employment quality and access to social protection and security, as well as a social organization that assigns paid and unpaid domestic work and care work to women, together with policies and care services that are inadequate to ensure gender co-responsibility and co-responsibility between the State, the market, families, communities and individuals,

Mindful of the unprecedented harmful effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has had a negative effect on the world’s population and a disproportionately heavy impact on women, adolescents and girls, by intensifying the structural obstacles to gender equality and resulting in massive job losses, rising informality and school dropout, thereby increasing the demand for care and the overburden of care work for women,

¹ LC/MDM.61/4.

adolescents and girls, among other consequences, and at the same time, has highlighted the decisive role of paid and unpaid care work for the sustainability of life,

Concerned by the worsening economic and social and environmental situation resulting from multiple and interrelated international energy, food and financial crises, the increasing challenges posed by global climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and the high level of public debt in many countries of the region, and the implications thereof for the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of the rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region, agree to:

1. *Welcome* the document *The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality*,² which calls for a transition towards a new development model that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet, recognizes care as forming part of the human rights that are fundamental to the well-being of the population as a whole, ensures the rights of the people who require or provide care, and raises awareness of the multiplier effects of the care economy on well-being and as a sector that can drive an inclusive, transformative recovery with equality and sustainability, and commends the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, for preparing the document;

2. *Also welcome* the document *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030: implementing the information systems pillar of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*,³ and commend the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for their coordinated efforts to mainstream gender in national statistical systems;

3. *Reaffirm* the commitment to take all necessary and progressive measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender

² LC/CRM.15/3.

³ LC/CRM.15/4.

Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization at the highest level of machineries for the advancement of women and the mainstreaming of gender at the different levels and branches of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with civic participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

4. *Recognize* that women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their life cycle, and that it is therefore necessary to respect and appreciate their diversity of situations and conditions and shed light on the fact that they face barriers to their autonomy and to the exercise of their rights, and that it is necessary to adopt intersectional strategies to address their specific needs, affording particular attention to the feminization of poverty in the region;

5. *Also recognize* that the unfair distribution of time use and the current social organization of care disproportionately affect women, in particular women living in poverty, adolescents and girls and older women, Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women deprived of liberty, women living with HIV, migrant and refugee women, as well as LGBTI+ persons, among others;

6. *Reiterate* the call to advance recovery plans with proactive measures to achieve substantive equality that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full, significant and equal participation of women in positions of leadership in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

7. *Promote* measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and move towards a fair social organization of care, in the framework of a new development model that fosters gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

8. *Recognize* care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State, adopting regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence and workplace and sexual harassment in formal and informal work, and that free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment, education, public and political life and the economy, and enjoy their autonomy to the full;

9. *Adopt* regulatory frameworks that ensure the right to care through the implementation of comprehensive care policies and systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective, and include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services in the territory;

10. *Design* and implement State policies that favour gender co-responsibility and make it possible to overcome harmful sexist roles, stereotypes and norms, through regulations aimed at establishing or broadening parental leave for the diverse forms of families, as well as other types of leave to care for dependent persons, including inalienable and non-transferable paternity leave;

11. *Promote* co-responsible and non-violent masculinities with a view to transforming gender roles and stereotypes, through the full participation of men and boys as strategic partners for achieving gender equality, including through education, communication and awareness-raising programmes;

12. *Consider* valuing care work in measures of economic compensation and a fair distribution of assets, in cases of dissolution of the marriage or cohabitation;

13. *Adopt* measures to promote and effectively protect the human rights of all women domestic workers, as established in Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization, and urge governments that have not yet done so to ratify and apply the Convention;

14. *Recognize* the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices, and put in place policies, services and accessible infrastructure to protect their right to provide and receive care and to self-care, considering their specific needs, including the use of mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies;

15. *Promote* the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that contribute from a gender and human rights perspective to ageing with dignity in a safe and healthy environment, and to the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons;

16. *Integrate* the gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective into national policies, initiatives and programmes on the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the differentiated risks for and effects on women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, especially women subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence and environmental defenders;

17. *Promote* women's participation in environmental decision-making and disaster risk reduction and build the resilience and adaptive capacities of women, adolescents and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and environmental pollution in cities and rural areas;

18. *Encourage* coordinated work between national machineries for the advancement of women and other entities responsible for care policies, and between the different levels and branches of government, establishing inter-agency coordination mechanisms with sufficient technical, human, administrative and financial resources to strengthen the exchange of innovative practices and initiatives for the design of comprehensive care policies and systems from the gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspectives;

19. *Create* enabling conditions for the autonomy of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance, the provision of and investment in affordable, quality infrastructure and essential services, promoting,

among other things, universal access to comprehensive health services, including mental health services, sexual and reproductive health, and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, through access to information and comprehensive sexuality education and to safe abortion services in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation, as well as access to education and comprehensive services for the prevention of gender-based violence against women, safe drinking water, safe, nutritious and sufficient food, sanitation, clean and affordable renewable energy, public transport, housing, social protection and decent work for women;

20. *Promote* the adoption and implementation of laws, policies, comprehensive and multisectoral action plans and educational awareness-raising programmes to prevent, address, punish and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, in different areas and manifestations, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage and early unions;

21. *Also promote* intersectoral public policies that include affirmative action to foster women's and girls' participation, continuation and completion of education in the spheres of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

22. *Actively support* the participation of women's and feminist organizations and movements, including those of young women, older women, Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, grassroots and rural women, migrant women, LGBTI+ persons, caregivers' and dependent persons' organizations, as well as trade unions, organizations of paid domestic workers and community care organizations and cooperatives, in the design, implementation and monitoring of care policies;

23. *Encourage* a systemic change in the approach to migration from a gender, intersectoral, intercultural and human rights perspective to highlight the contributions made to societies by migrant, displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and the elimination of the structural conditions that expose them to vulnerability in the migration cycle, including smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls;

24. *Consider* the adoption of cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit, destination and return of migrant, displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women, with special attention to women in global and regional care chains, fostering their full participation in decision-making;

25. *Encourage* and strengthen the effective protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land, territory and natural resources, and adopt measures to integrate the gender, intersectoral and intercultural perspectives into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against these defenders and to combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that human rights violations committed against them are investigated and that they have access to justice;

26. *Design*, implement and evaluate macroeconomic policies, particularly fiscal policies (income, spending and investment), from a gender equality and human rights perspective to safeguard the progress made and mobilize the maximum available resources with a view to increasing sustainable public investment over time in care policies and infrastructure, in order to guarantee universal access to affordable and quality care services;

27. *Promote* and adopt progressive fiscal policies, allocate budgets with a gender perspective and implement specific financing mechanisms to ensure sufficient, non-transferable, sustainable resources that cover all levels and areas of public policy aimed at reversing gender inequalities and guaranteeing the rights of women, adolescents and girls, including the right to care;

28. *Implement* gender-responsive countercyclical fiscal policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on all women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in sectors key to the sustainability of life, including the care economy;

29. *Strengthen* regional cooperation to combat tax evasion and avoidance and illicit financial flows, and improve tax collection from the wealthiest and highest-income groups by introducing

corporate income, wealth and property taxes, among others, in order to have greater resources for gender equality policies, including care policies and systems;

30. *Foster* cooperation among States and support for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to explore debt relief options for highly indebted countries and promote solutions to address debt overhang and secure the necessary resources for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

31. *Ensure* that fiscal adjustment measures or budget cuts aimed at addressing economic slowdowns are in line with the principles of human rights and non-discrimination, avoiding in particular cuts to programmes and support that would increase poverty rates among women and their burden of unpaid and care work;

32. *Promote* gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems through coordinated work between bodies that produce and use information and guaranteeing the allocation of a sufficient budget and the periodicity of measurements and the dissemination of information;

33. *Also promote* the adoption of a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in the production and use of statistical information, which will shed light on the multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination and violence against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and throughout their lives, as well as a territorial perspective that fosters the integration of statistical and georeferenced information to identify the demand and supply of care in the territories;

34. *Encourage* the measurement of the multiplier effects of boosting the care economy in terms of labour market participation by women in their diversity, and of well-being, redistribution, economic growth and the macroeconomic impact of the care economy, including through the periodic measurement of time use, needs and demand for care in diverse territories, valuation of unpaid work in national accounts, cost estimation and calculation of the investment and return related to care policies and systems;

35. *Promote* measurements of well-being that complement gross domestic product, and which ensure that care work is made visible and valued in accounts for the economy as a whole, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

36. *Encourage* subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation programmes through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation modalities, as well as between national machineries for the advancement of women, that promote gender equality, women's autonomy, the prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence against women, including human smuggling and trafficking, particularly of women and girls, and the right to care;

37. *Reaffirm* the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations and movements, and those of Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, migrant women, young women and LGBTI+ persons, and those of women defenders of human and environmental rights, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations and with the State to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, fostering the conditions for their participation, addressing cultural or linguistic barriers and identifying and pursuing sources of financing;

38. *Express* solidarity with women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity in conflict situations around the world and call for the promotion of multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law and to maintain international peace and security, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

39. *Also express* solidarity with those, in particular women, adolescents and girls throughout the life cycle and in all their diversity, who have faced the adverse effects of climate change and disasters, and promote cooperation on adaptation and response to extreme weather events, disaster risk management and strengthening resilience, especially for women, adolescents and girls living in small island developing States;

40. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular advances in the measurement of femicide or femicide, total work time, child marriage and early unions, and women's participation in local government, and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics, the creation and updating of a repository for regulatory frameworks and the development of studies that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

41. *Welcome* the parliamentary forum held within the framework of the fifteenth session of Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and urge future host States of the Conference to promote similar initiatives that strengthen interparliamentary partnerships to advance the legislative agenda of the States in line with the Regional Gender Agenda;

42. *Also welcome* the feminist forum and the youth forum held in the framework of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

43. *Instruct* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to prepare a document on guiding principles for the design of policies, from a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective and the perspective of territory, within the framework of human rights;

44. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for advancing in the implementation of the measures contained in the Montevideo Strategy and of the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference;

45. *Report* voluntarily at the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and

the Caribbean on progress in the implementation of the present Commitment as part of the Regional Gender Agenda and the measures of the Montevideo Strategy;

46. *Urge* the developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, and to cooperate in capacity-building with a view to accelerating the application of the Montevideo Strategy and the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

47. *Encourage* once again the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean and of other regions, developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, and thank Mexico and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their cooperation with the Fund through the first call for grants launched by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in its capacity as administrative body;

48. *Reject* unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, including the right to development, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls that are worsened in times of crisis;

49. *Recognize* the Global Alliance for Care, launched in June 2021 by Mexico with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as a co-creative multi-stakeholder forum where governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, trade unions and caregivers, and national, regional and international youth and feminist networks can share experiences and good practices to make progress in the agenda for the right to care at the global level, recognizing that some countries of the region are already part of and inviting other countries of the region to join this initiative;

50. *Welcome* general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and encourage the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to ratify their commitments to progress toward achieving gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

51. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the joint work carried out within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional forum for discussing and building the regional gender equality agenda ahead of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and request the Chair of the Conference to convey the outcomes of this subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the subsequent sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

52. *Acknowledge* the Government of Chile for its leadership as Chair of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

53. *Express* sincere thanks to the Government and people of Argentina for hosting the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and wish the country success as it assumes the chairship;

54. *Welcome* the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference, to begin the preparatory work for the session of the Conference to be held in 2025.

Annex 1

Explanation of the position of Barbados

Hello,

Barbados appreciates being present for this transformative and inclusive conference and looks forward to the difference that it will make in the lives of women. Congratulations to the government and people of Argentina and all involved for hosting this people in particular being such wonderful hosts to the Caribbean delegations.

Barbados wishes to insert the following footnotes in the final document:

1. Barbados accepts the declaration from the 15th Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (The Buenos Aires Commitment) within the context of our national laws.

2. For Barbados, any reference to *Comprehensive Sexual Education* should be “**..age and culturally appropriate**”.

Kirk Humphrey

Annex 2

Explanation of position of Canada

Dear ECLAC Secretariat,

The Government of Canada wishes to have recorded the following notes as part of the “Buenos Aires Commitment”:

The Government of Canada strongly opposes the reference to ‘unilateral coercive measures’ in paragraph 48 as we find it is meant to reference autonomous sanctions. Sanctions are a key foreign policy tool employed judiciously by Canada. When the UN Charter was established, it recognized there were times when such tools could be necessary to address threats to global peace and security. By imposing sanctions, Canada sends a clear signal that policies and behaviours that violate international rules, norms and conduct will not be tolerated.

The Buenos Aires Commitment contains references to a “right to care,” which has not yet been established as a matter of customary international law, is not provided for in treaty law, and does not have an agreed international meaning. That said, Canada looks forward to working with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as fellow Member States, to continue promoting and protecting the human rights of all people.

Thank you and best regards,

Heidy Sanchez (*she/elle/ella*)

Gender Lead and Delegate | Agente responsable
du genre et déléguée

Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS |

Mission permanente du Canada auprès de l’OÉA

501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

heidy.sanchez@international.gc.ca

Office 202.448.6215 | Cell 202.436.4763 | Fax 202.682.7624

Annex 3

Explanation of position of the United States

ECLAC colleagues,

I hope all is well. I'm writing from the US Department of State in Washington, DC, where I work in our office that engages the UN's five Regional Economic Commissions, including ECLAC. I want to congratulate ECLAC on an excellent Conference on Women this week – our delegation from the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues was able to explore collaboration on the care economy with a number of participants. We anticipate this will lead to fruitful collaboration on the care economy throughout the region. As discussed in separate emails, following our legal review of the final version of the Buenos Aires Commitment document, please accept the following explanation of position by the United States and include it as an annex to the Buenos Aires Commitment document:

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The Government of the United States of America wishes to have recorded the following explanation of position:

The Government of the United States of America partners throughout the hemisphere to promote the equal rights of women, expand opportunities for women and girls in all their diversity, and advance the care economy. The Government of the United States of America participated in the Fifteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and strongly supports the core themes of its outcome document, the Buenos Aires Commitment. However, the Buenos Aires Commitment contains language rejecting “unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, including the right to development, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls that are worsened in times of crisis.” Multiple Member States raised objections to this language, which improperly injects the unrelated issue of sanctions into the discussion. Economic sanctions are an appropriate, effective, and legitimate tool that can be used to achieve national security and foreign policy objectives, including as

a means to promote a return to rule of law, democratic systems, or human rights and fundamental freedoms, or to respond to threats to international security.

The Buenos Aires Commitment also contains references to a “right to care,” which has not yet been established as a matter of customary international law, is not provided for in treaty law, and does not have an agreed international meaning. Therefore, the Government of the United States of America cannot join adoption of the Buenos Aires Commitment document. The Government of the United States of America looks forward to expanded partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and fellow Member States to continue promoting the care economy and the equal rights of women and girls in all their diversity.

--

Regards,
Paul

Paul Stempel

Bureau of International Organization Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Office: (202) 647-5237 | Cell: (303) 601-9368

Annex 4

Explanation of position of Guatemala⁴

Of. Ref. DAJCC-SEPTEM-336-2022
Guatemala, 14 de noviembre de 2022

Señor Ministro:

Reciba un cordial saludo de la Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer (Seprem), deseándole éxito en el desarrollo de sus actividades diarias.

La Seprem, como parte de la Delegación oficial nombrada para participar en la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe, celebrada del 8 al 11 de noviembre de 2022 en Buenos Aires, Argentina, ha recibido comunicación directa de la Secretaría de la Comisión de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, compartiendo el Compromiso de Buenos Aires adoptado en el marco de la Conferencia.

En este sentido, se ha dado lectura al documento y en el marco de su competencia y como jefas de delegación, traslada observación para que pueda ser incluida como anexo al texto, previo a su oficialización:

“Guatemala promueve, defiende y protege sin discriminación alguna los derechos humanos de todas las personas desde un marco de control de convencionalidad. No obstante, el país cuenta con reservas sobre la no aplicación de términos, condiciones y disposiciones que contraríen explícita o implícitamente la Constitución Política de la República de Guatemala y su ordenamiento jurídico interno, incluyendo, pero no limitándose a los temas relacionados con: derechos reproductivos, personas LGBTI+, aborto y la interpretación de los términos: diversidad y diversas formas de familias, en el contexto sexual”.

En virtud de lo anterior, y con el fin de dar respuesta por la vía diplomática a la Secretaría de la Comisión de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, solicito sus buenos oficios a efecto de que esta observación sea incluida como parte de los anexos al Compromiso de Buenos Aires.

⁴ This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar las muestras de agradecimiento por la valiosa colaboración.

Ana Leticia Aguilar Theissen

Secretaria Presidencial de la Mujer

Señor Ministro

Mario Búcaro Flores

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Su Despacho

C.c. Archivo

ALAT/ig

Courtesy translation by the secretariat

Of. Ref. DAJCC-SEPREM-336-2022
Guatemala City, 14 November 2022

Dear Minister,

Please accept our heartfelt greetings from the Presidential Secretariat for Women (Seprem), wishing you very success with your day-to-day work.

Seprem, as part of the official delegation selected to participate in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 8 to 11 November 2022 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has received direct communication from the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, sharing the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted within the framework of the Conference.

In this regard, Seprem has read the document and within the scope of its responsibilities and as head of the delegation sends the following comments to be included as an annex to the text, before it is formalized:

“Guatemala promotes, defends and protects, without discrimination, the human rights of all persons within a framework of compliance with the country’s constitution. However, the country has reservations on the non-application of terms, conditions or provisions that explicitly or implicitly contradict the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and its internal legal system, including, but not limited to issues related to: reproductive rights, LGBTI+ persons, abortion and the interpretation of the terms: diversity and diverse forms of families, in the sexual context”.

Therefore, in order to respond through diplomatic channels to the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, I request your good offices so that this comment may be included in the annexes to the Buenos Aires Commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude for the valuable collaboration.

Ana Leticia Aguilar Theissen

Presidential Secretary for Women

Minister

Mario Búcaro Flores

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Office

C.c. Archive

ALAT/lg

Annex 5

Explanation of position of Nicaragua⁵

Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional
Unida Nicaragua Triunfa

RESERVAS DE NICARAGUA SOBRE LOS ACUERDOS DE LA XV CONFERENCIA REGIONAL SOBRE LA MUJER DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE.

El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional solicita a la Mesa Directiva de la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe realizar la siguiente Reserva:

- Nicaragua toma nota del documento “La Sociedad del cuidado: horizonte para una recuperación sostenible con igualdad de género”; y en específico sobre el análisis del escenario mundial del COVID-19 y el conflicto entre Rusia y Ucrania, consiente de los efectos de las múltiples crisis mundiales en la vida de mujeres y niñas, **reafirma su compromiso en trabajar por un mundo multipolar**, con convivencia pacífica y sin medidas unilaterales coercitivas que impidan el cumplimiento de las metas de la Agenda 2030 y los ODS.

- El Gobierno de Nicaragua agradece la información del documento “Romper el silencio estadístico para alcanzar la igualdad de género en 2030” y solicita nota al pie en el contenido de la página 17 en párrafo 2, página 18 en párrafo fuente - inciso b, página 27 en párrafo 2 y 5 y página 69 párrafo 1, indicando **el término Femicidio de acuerdo a nuestro Marco Legal**.

- En los puntos referidos al ejercicio pleno de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos, El Gobierno de Nicaragua mantiene las reservas de Conferencias anteriores, considerando que el aborto no es un componente de los mismos.

⁵ This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

Courtesy translation by the secretariat

RESERVATIONS OF NICARAGUA ON THE AGREEMENTS OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity requests the Presiding Officers of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to take note of the following reservation:

- Nicaragua takes note of the document “The care society: a horizon for a sustainable recovery with gender equality”; and, with particular regard to the analysis of the global situation caused by COVID-19 and the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, aware of the effects of the multiple global crises on the lives of women and girls, **reaffirms its commitment to working towards a multipolar world**, one of peaceful coexistence free of coercive unilateral measures that hinder the fulfilment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

- The Government of Nicaragua welcomes the information in the document “Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030” and requests that a footnote be added to the contents of paragraph 2 on page 17, source note b on page 18, paragraphs 2 and 5 on page 27, and paragraph 1 on page 69, to include **the term “femicide”; in accordance with our legal framework.**

- With regard to mentions of the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, the Government of Nicaragua maintains the reservations expressed in previous sessions of the Conference, as it considers that abortion is not an element of sexual and reproductive rights.

Annex 6

Explanation of position of Panama⁶

E.R.P.Ch. No.237/22

La Embajada de la República de Panamá en Chile, saluda atentamente a la Honorable Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), y tiene el agrado de remitir nota DGOCI-MIRE-2022-089939, con fecha 15 de noviembre de 2022, del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá —Dirección de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales— en referencia a la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Buenos Aires, Argentina del 7 al 11 de noviembre del presente año.

La Embajada de la República del Panamá, hace propicia la ocasión para expresar a la Honorable Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.

Santiago, 16 de noviembre de 2022

A la Honorable

**Comisión Económica para América Latina
y el Caribe (CEPAL)**

Santiago-Chile

⁶ This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

PANAMÁ 4, PANAMÁ
DGOCI – MIRE-2022-089939

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores -Dirección de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales- saluda atentamente a la Honorable Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, y tiene el honor de referirse a la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Buenos Aires, Argentina, del 7 al 11 de noviembre de 2022.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores —Dirección de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales— tiene a bien comunicar a la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe que todos los documentos adoptados durante la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, serán interpretados de la siguiente manera:

“La República de Panamá reitera su irrevocable compromiso de proteger y garantizar los derechos fundamentales de todas las personas, los cuales son universales, inalienables, imprescriptibles e indivisibles; atendiendo los principios de igualdad y no discriminación, exaltando la dignidad humana, promoviendo la justicia social y el bienestar general. Reconocemos que los espacios de diálogo político multilateral son idóneos para avanzar en el desarrollo de los estándares de protección de los derechos humanos de todas las personas; y que ese desarrollo progresivo podrá ser acogido por las autoridades nacionales mediante las vías legítimas de cada Estado soberano”.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores -Dirección de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales- hace propicia la ocasión para renovar a la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, en el marco de la XV Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, las seguridades de su más alta consideración.

Panamá, 15 de noviembre de 2022.

A la Honorable
**SECRETARÍA DE LA COMISIÓN ECONÓMICA
PARA AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE**
Santiago, Chile

Courtesy translation by the secretariat

E.R.P.Ch. No-237122

The Embassy of the Republic of Panama in Chile presents its compliments to the honourable Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and has the pleasure to enclose note DGOCl-MIRE-2022-089939, dated 15 November 2022, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama—Directorate for International Organizations and Conferences— in reference to the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 7 to 11 November this year.

The Embassy of the Republic of Panama avails itself of this opportunity to express to the Honourable Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Santiago, 16 November 2022

To the honourable

**Economic Commission for Latin America
and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Santiago — Chile

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PANAMÁ 4, PANAMA CITY
DGOCI - MIRE-2022- 089939

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Directorate General for International Organizations and Conferences—presents its compliments to the honourable Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and has the honour to refer to the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 7 to 11 November 2022.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Directorate General for International Organizations and Conferences—hereby informs the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that all documents adopted during the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean shall be interpreted as follows:

“The Republic of Panama reiterates its irrevocable commitment to protecting and guaranteeing the fundamental rights of all persons, which are universal, inalienable, indivisible and not subject to a statute of limitations; this, pursuant to the principles of equality and non-discrimination, while promoting human dignity, fostering social justice and general well-being. We acknowledge that spaces for multilateral political dialogue are ideal for advancing the development of standards for protection of the human rights of all people; and that such progressive development may be accommodated by national authorities through the legitimate channels of each sovereign State”.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Directorate General for International Organizations and Conferences—avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Panamá, 15 November 2022.

To the honourable

SECRETARIAT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Santiago, Chile

Annex 7

Explanation of position of Paraguay⁷

A la atención de:

Secretaría Técnica
CEPAL

La Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de la Mujer presenta por este medio su postura oficial ante el documento “Proyecto de Acuerdos”, en su última versión.

Se ruega la atención correspondiente y se agradecen sus valiosas gestiones.

Teniendo en cuenta la terminología del documento final revisado, se propone el siguiente texto:

En relación con el documento de la XV Conferencia Regional sobre las Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe (Compromiso de Buenos Aires), la República del Paraguay, reafirma la misma postura asumida en la Declaración de Panamá (CIM-OEA 2022), en cuanto a la terminología utilizada y que no cuenta con una definición plenamente consensuada a nivel regional-universal. En el presente documento, se visualizan los siguientes términos: en toda su diversidad, interseccionalidad, plena autonomía, autonomía, salud sexual y reproductiva y ejercicio pleno de los derechos sexuales y reproductivos, diversas formas de familia, personas LGTBI+, las cuales serán interpretadas en concordancia con la Constitución Nacional y el ordenamiento jurídico del Paraguay. El Paraguay se adhiere a las recomendaciones y políticas del presente documento, siempre y cuando no se contrapongan a dicha normativa.

Se deja además constancia que los términos adoptados en el presente documento no constituyen lenguaje acordado para otros documentos en proceso de negociación en este foro u otra instancia.

Para el Paraguay, el anexo al documento final forma parte integral del mismo.

Cordiales saludos

Patricia Benítez
Directora de Relaciones Internacionales

Staff
inter@mujer.gov.py
(+ 595) 21 450 036/8, Interno 325

⁷ This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

Courtesy translation by the secretariat

For the attention of:

The technical secretariat
ECLAC

The International Relations Directorate of the Ministry for Women's Affairs hereby presents its official position on the most recent version of the document "Draft agreements".

We kindly request your attention and thank you for your valuable efforts.

Taking into account the terminology of the revised final document, the following text is proposed:

With regard to the document of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires Commitment), the Republic of Paraguay reaffirms the same position taken with regard to the Declaration of Panama (CIM-OAS 2022) regarding the terminology used, which does not have a fully agreed definition at the regional or universal levels. In this document, the following expressions are found: in all their diversity, intersectional, full autonomy, autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, diverse forms of families, LGBTI+ persons, which will be interpreted in accordance with the National Constitution and the legal system of Paraguay. Paraguay adheres to the recommendations and policies of this document, provided that they do not contradict said law.

It is further noted that the terms adopted in the document do not constitute agreed language for other documents under negotiation in this forum or elsewhere.

For Paraguay, the annex to the final document forms an integral part thereof.

Kind regards,

Patricia Benítez
Director of International Relations

Staff

inter@mujer.gov.py

(+ 595) 21 450 036/8, Interno 325

Annex 8

Explanation of position of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Good Day

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines wishes to transmit the following statement to be added as a footnote in the Buenos Aires Declaration. An additional statement would be forwarded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade through the SVG Permanent Mission in Washington.

“The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines agrees to the Buenos Aires Consensus and will comply with the recommendations of this document as long as they do not conflict with our national laws and infringe on the constitution. St. Vincent and the Grenadines maintain its reservations on terms not defined in our laws that are currently used in this commitment such as **“women in all their diversity and LGBTI”**. SVG reaffirms its commitment to the rights of all women and girls and improving their condition is a priority.”

Warm regards

Jemima George-Richardson

Coordinator

Gender Affairs Division

Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development,

The Family, Gender, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlements

Kingstown

ST. VINCENT

Tel: 784-453-2061 (w)

Annex 9

Explanation of position of Saint Lucia

Distinguished Secretary of the Commission,

On behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process of development of this ground breaking declaration. As noted during deliberations on the draft document, countries with reservations on language should submit the required footnotes by Monday 14 November, 2022. As regards, Saint Lucia wishes to submit the following footnote in keeping with the required legal guidance.

The Government of Saint Lucia is guided by the provisions of its Constitution, which promotes and protects the human rights, nondiscrimination, and fundamental freedoms of all persons, and the preservation of the rule of law. All persons are provided the same level of protection in accordance with the constitution of Saint Lucia. The Government of Saint Lucia places reservations on the use of terms used in this declaration that our domestic laws do not address. Specifically “women and girls in all their diversity” as this term is not defined in international law and as such do not find expression in our domestic law.

It has been an honour participating in this historic conference and we look forward to continued cooperation in the implementation of this declaration.

With our highest regards.

Janey Joseph(Ms)

Director - Gender Affairs

Department of Home Affairs and Gender Affairs

Ground Floor, Georgiana Court Building

John Compton Highway

Castries

Tel# (758) 468-5195

Cell (758) 730-0396

Secretary: gender.relations@govt.lc (758)468-5197



The Buenos Aires Commitment was adopted by the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in November 2022. This intergovernmental agreement places care at the centre of a new development model that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet.

The Buenos Aires Commitment charts a path towards a care society, with agreements in new areas for transformative recovery with gender equality and sustainability. It recognizes care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care. It calls for the promotion of measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and move towards a fair social organization of care, in the framework of a new development model that fosters gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

