

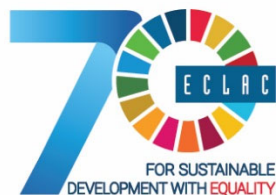


Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 22–23 January 2019

Dist.
Limited
LC/MDM.58/4
29 May 2019
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
19-00381

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

Santiago, 22 and 23 January 2019



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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 fifty-eighth meeting in Santiago on 22 and 23 January 2019.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Canada, Colombia, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Italy, Japan, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Turkey.

4. The following associate members of the Commission were also represented: Aruba and Curaçao.

5. Representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime attended from the United Nations Secretariat (UNODC).

6. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

7. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

8. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended the meeting: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Organization of American States (OAS).

9. Also present were representatives of non-governmental organizations and other special guests.

¹ See annex 2.

Chair

10. 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.

B. AGENDA

11. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 30 and 31 July 2018).
3. Report on the outcomes of the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Report by the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements.
5. Reports by the countries on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and its synergy with the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25).
6. Presentation of the annotated index of the position document of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4–8 November 2019).
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Cielo Morales, Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Janet Camilo, Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; Lara Blanco, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and Isabel Plá, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile.

13. The Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Commission. She said that the region was experiencing political changes that represented progress and setbacks in women's autonomy and gender equality, and was facing global uncertainties relating to economic, geopolitical, trade and social issues. She spoke of the slight slowdown in regional growth in 2018, which limited job creation for women; the strengthening of the structural challenges of inequality, which affected women's labour participation and employment; the overrepresentation of women among people earning less than the minimum wage; and the systematically higher percentage of women living in poor households. She recalled the Commission's emphasis on the fact that gender inequality was not only unjust, but also highly inefficient, and represented an obstacle to sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda served as a road map for equality and sustainability. Lastly, she expressed her conviction that the large number of participants at the fifty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers augured well for the successful preparation of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

14. The Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference, said that the rights obtained thanks to women's struggles were under threat in the region, as governments were questioning the need for public policies for women and the need for women to hold positions of power. With the election of various women heads of government, the region had sent a message to the world that women continued to ascend to positions of power, but after a decade of governance, there were no women in government leadership roles. She said that it would be interesting to learn during the meeting the progress that countries had made in the fight for equality through public policies and the vision of ECLAC leading up to the next Regional Conference. She hoped that at the end of the meeting it would be clear that the agenda for women remained a top priority for the countries of the region. She also hoped that dialogue would continue to strengthen the path to equality, which was more than a dream, and in fact a goal to be achieved through great perseverance. Lastly, she said that the region and the world needed optimistic leadership in the face of the prevailing negative atmosphere, and she expressed her conviction that equality was built day by day with considerable effort and enthusiasm.

15. Next, the Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) extended greetings from the Executive Director. She then recalled that 2019 marked 40 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and said that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were instruments to pave the way forward in a complex environment of contrasts and paradoxes. She warned of the emergence of speech that was sexist and contrary to rights and whose spread posed a threat to progress, and she said in that context, it was important to highlight the role the women's movement had played in the region in the defence of rights. The Regional Conference

offered an opportunity to provide the region with solid instruments for the promotion of synergies and was an indispensable political forum to keep moving forward. She highlighted leadership in the region in a group of initiatives, including the adoption and follow-up of various instruments, and underscored the synergies between the work of the Regional Conference and that of UN-Women. She said that UN-Women was committed to providing support and technical assistance to the countries to design and implement equality policies and to strengthen national statistical systems, adding that its role was to ensure a collective and coherent response from the United Nations system to the challenges facing women in the region, and the Regional Conference was essential in that regard.

16. Lastly, the Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile conveyed greetings from the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile to the participants, and expressed her pleasure that her country would host the next Regional Conference. She said in May 2018, the government had reiterated its commitment to an agenda for gender equity led by constitutional reform to require the State to ensure equality of rights and duties, the elimination of all forms of violence and the prevention of any arbitrary discrimination that affected women in particular. The government was working intensely on an agenda buoyed by cross-cutting support and convergence, which was crucial for tangible, solid and irreversible progress with respect to women's rights and duties and their autonomy, especially in the economic sense. She reaffirmed the principle of zero tolerance of violence, which required consolidation of the institutional framework and all the legislative changes needed. She said that cultural change was most important in that respect, and for that reason the government had adopted a cross-cutting approach to work with civil society and political stakeholders. The government was also following progress on the Montevideo Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She reiterated that gender equity should not just be a women's issue, but should involve all people of goodwill, adding that in the twenty-first century, men should be actively involved and committed to the fight for not just women's rights, but also for a more just society and the well-being of everyone.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

17. The Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers 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.

Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 30 and 31 July 2018) (agenda item 2)

18. The secretariat presented a report on the activities conducted in the region since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. Technical assistance was provided to the Governments of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia with regard to time-use surveys. The Government of El Salvador received technical assistance relating to gender and trade. With regard to violence against women, the Governments of the Dominican Republic and El Salvador received support in the measurement of femicide or femicide; the Governments of Paraguay and Uruguay received technical assistance in the building of observatories on violence; the Governments of El Salvador and Uruguay received support in the development of surveys on violence against women; and work was carried out with the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship of Ecuador and with the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) of Trinidad and Tobago. Gender mainstreaming activities were also carried out in relation to the production of indicators to follow up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the support provided for gender equality plans and policies in Costa Rica and Caribbean countries.

20. The report included the preparatory activities for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, including three virtual meetings held with governments of the Caribbean and the preparation of the annotated index of the position document. Emphasis was placed on the support provided to the governments of the region at the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and at the special regional consultations prior to the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women organized by UN-Women, as well as the activities of the technical secretariat of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

21. The work done in relation to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean included the updating of the indicators on women's physical, decision-making and economic autonomy, the methodological review of indicators on femicide and women's representation in local governments, the conduct of a survey on data relating to the homicide of women and femicide targeting the national institutions responsible for record-keeping, and the incorporation of information on new countries into time-use indicators. The report included the ongoing regional studies on femicide measurement and on migration laws, and future publications and expert meetings within the framework of the Gender Equality Observatory.

22. Lastly, it underscored the process of gender mainstreaming in the different areas of work of ECLAC and inter-agency work with other international entities.

Report on the outcomes of the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

23. Pursuant to agreement 9 of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the secretariat reported on salient aspects of other intergovernmental meetings convened by ECLAC: the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, 7–9 August 2018), the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (Santo Domingo, 30 August 2018), the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama, 12 September, 2018), the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (Santiago, 3 and 4 October 2018) and the eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation (Santiago, 3 October 2018).

24. During the presentation on the third session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasis was placed on the presentation of 23 national progress reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the presentation of the draft first regional report on the implementation of that Consensus, and the agreements adopted with a view to developing statistical systems taking a human rights-based, intercultural and intergenerational approach, and to strengthening synergies among ECLAC subsidiary bodies in the themes of the Montevideo Consensus, with the participation of civil society. The activities of the second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean included the presentation of the document *Towards a regional agenda for inclusive social development: bases and initial proposal* and of the Social Development Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean. The themes addressed at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) included progress with respect to the resolutions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning, held in Lima in 2017; the review of the ILPES report on activities, 2017–2018; and the progress of the

Regional Observatory on Planning for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The report on the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC mentioned the activities carried out in relation to follow-up to the SDGs and highlighted the presentation of the review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018–2019, and of the reports of the working groups of the same Conference. Lastly, with regard to the eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, a work plan had been adopted for the Network for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a dialogue of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the priorities of the region had been convened and was scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters on 29 and 30 November 2018, with a view to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Report by the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements (agenda item 4)

25. Further to agreements 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the representative of Mexico, in her capacity as coordinator of the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, reported on the activities carried out since July 2018. She highlighted the work done to formulate the operating rules, or process, of the fund, and said that the proposal of feminist organizations to participate in the fund had been received. She described in detail the proposal for the fund's operating rules, including its scope, the responsibilities of its internal entities, the receipt and allocation of resources and aspects relating to calls for applications. Pending issues included the need to define an accountability mechanism and the establishment of a cooperation agreement with the administrative body. Lastly, she reiterated the call for countries to make voluntary contributions of resources and invited them to submit comments on the document by 28 February 2019 at the latest, in order to consolidate a definitive proposal of operating rules in July 2019. She also invited the countries to consider whether the calls for applications should be annual or biennial, whether organizations that were allocated funding could apply more than once or whether activities should commence in 2019 or 2020.

26. Among the statements made by representatives of the countries, the representative of Colombia expressed her willingness to work towards the consolidation of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, and said the pace of meetings had to be accelerated to achieve that. Like the representative of Argentina, she expressed interest in a meeting of the fund's board of directors. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines spoke of the need to ensure that women's organizations in the Caribbean had access to the fund, while the representative of Panama expressed her interest in knowing how the fund's secretariat would operate. The representative of El Salvador said that the fund should be considered an instrument for the work of the feminist movement and requested that the Presiding Officers seek diversified financing sources, aside from the States. Meanwhile, the representative of Ecuador expressed her concern about the annual nature of the fund. The representative of Spain expressed interest in supporting and contributing to the fund, while the representative of Argentina confirmed her country's participation as a member of the fund's board of directors. Lastly, a representative of civil society expressed her wish that the creation and implementation of the fund would occur at a faster pace, that the framework of donors would be expanded beyond States (to include businesses and international bodies, among others) and that there would be regular reports on the contributing countries and entities.

27. Finally, the representative of Mexico, in her capacity as coordinator of the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements, recalled that the proposal for operating rules included the definition of the responsibilities of the board of directors, the secretariat, the administrative

body, donors and the evaluation committee of the fund, as well as the eligibility criteria for organizations, the amounts that could be allocated and the supporting documentation that organizations were required to submit for their projects, among other aspects. She added that the new Government of Mexico was interested in supporting the budget allocated to initiatives in favour of gender equality. Lastly, she said that a virtual meeting would be held to discuss the proposal and underscored the voluntary nature of the contributions from countries and the need to find donors who could support the consolidation of the fund.

Reports by the countries on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and its synergy with the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) (agenda item 5)

28. The representative of Costa Rica presented her country's first progress report on the execution of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. She said that a law had been adopted to strengthen the legal protection of girls and adolescent girls in situations of gender-based violence relating to abusive relationships. She spoke of the adoption of the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), concerning equal opportunities and equal treatment for men and women workers with family responsibilities; the adoption of a restorative justice law and the establishment of police intervention protocol for cases of sexual abuse in public spaces. She said the country had a national policy for addressing and preventing violence against women of all ages (2017–2032), which emphasized preventative action and the promotion of sociocultural change to achieve equality and non-violence. She also spoke of the national policy for equality between women and men (2018–2030) based on the SDGs and the Montevideo Strategy. With regard to women's access to decision-making spheres, she underscored the implementation of vertical and horizontal parity in the national elections of 2018, which had resulted in the election of women to 26 of the 57 seats in the legislative assembly, and the formation of the first cabinet with equal representation, in which 14 ministers were women and 11 were men. With regard to the pillar of the Montevideo Strategy relating to State capacity-building and -strengthening, she said that a programme for gender equality in employment had been created which, in addition to being granted a Gender Equality Seal with the support of UNDP, was helping to achieve goals for equality in the workplace. In relation to the pillar of the Montevideo Strategy on information systems, she presented the *Guía para incorporar la perspectiva de género en la producción y divulgación de las estadísticas del Sistema de Estadística Nacional* (2018), which operationalized the guidelines issued by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), and other advances deriving from the conduct of national surveys in strategic areas, including the national time-use survey of 2017, which was the first of this kind.

29. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that her country had worked on the implementation of measures to foster gender equality, in accordance with the priorities established in the Montevideo Strategy and the SDGs. She said that gender discrimination was prohibited by the Constitution and, with respect to the regulatory framework, the country had made progress in the implementation of a series of laws relating to violence against women, and laws relating to child protection and trafficking in persons. She added that the country was working with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on the preparation of a draft bill on sexual harassment and that it had improved access to justice for women and vulnerable groups through a sexual offences model court. She also said that several initiatives had been designed to address discriminatory gender stereotypes and that the ongoing development of a national gender policy and corresponding plan of action would include a management framework to encourage gender mainstreaming at the different levels of government. Lastly, she spoke of the implementation of various initiatives to foster the access of women, boys and girls to technology and innovation skills, in addition to a law on cybercrime, to protect people's rights in the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs).

30. The representative of Peru reported that in December 2018 the Council of Ministers had adopted a national gender equality policy, which would be published shortly. She said that her country prioritized the prevention and elimination of violence against women, and that sexual harassment and sextortion had been categorized as crimes, whereas previously they had only been punishable by administrative sanctions and weaker sentences than the legal minimum. With regard to regulatory progress, she spoke of the creation of a specialized justice system for protection and punishment of violence against women and members of the family group, which improved access to justice; the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of ILO; and the promulgation of a framework law on climate change, which was based on an intergenerational, intercultural and gender-sensitive approach. She also underscored the development of a plan of action for cases of femicide, attempted femicide and intimate partners at high risk, which modified the criteria for granting protection measures, placing emphasis on the conditions of risk and not just on situations in which violence had occurred previously. Among future challenges, she highlighted the increase in women's involvement in popular participation processes (regional and local), which was expected to be addressed through the proposal on parity being debated in Congress. Lastly, she spoke of gender mainstreaming efforts and the development of multidimensional and comprehensive gender-based policies within the national and subnational executive branch.

31. The representative of Grenada spoke of the legal reforms in her country relating to violence, sexual violence and child abuse, including the Domestic Violence Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, as well as of programmes to implement rules and standards in the public education system to change behaviours and programmes to fight violence which were being developed with parents' participation and encouraged awareness-raising among men. She said that the country had a gender equality policy and action plan, but that challenges such as the concentration of power and hierarchical relationships in the public sphere persisted. In spite of that, she explained that there was growing recognition of the importance of achieving a critical mass of women in leadership and decision-making roles to fulfil the gender-equality policy and the Montevideo Strategy, ensuring women's access to the benefits of sustainable development. She said that 46% of parliamentarians in the country were women. With regard to the structural challenge of "discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege" identified in the Montevideo Strategy, she said that Grenada had implemented a multisectoral model of intervention comprising three elements: protection and support for victims, accountability of attackers and prevention of gender-based violence. She underscored the creation of the Division of Gender and Family Affairs in the corresponding ministry and of a special victims unit within the police force; the establishment of a hotline to report intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child abuse; and the development of awareness-raising campaigns and public forums fostered by the machinery for the advancement of women in schools. Lastly, she requested the assistance of ECLAC and of the States represented at the meeting to implement measures against gender-based violence and the Montevideo Strategy, in accordance with the SDGs.

32. The representative of Paraguay said that the Ministry for Women's Affairs of her country had prioritized three pillars of intervention: the prevention of violence against women, women's economic empowerment and women's political and social participation, including work with rural indigenous women. She mentioned various strategies implemented with other public entities to fulfil international mandates relating to gender equality, the Montevideo Strategy and the SDGs. She highlighted the adoption, in December 2018, of the 2018–2024 national equality plan, which was a State policy and instrument to incorporate gender equality into sectoral public policies; the approval, in September 2018, of a centre that would apply a management model aimed at organizing a comprehensive offering of specialized services for women under one roof; the launch, in October 2018, of a programme that provided services relating to sexual and reproductive health, violence prevention and response, childcare and economic empowerment to 1,900 women and 900 boys, girls and adolescents; the creation of a group comprising 12 public sector

institutions tasked with developing a road map and a document on a public care policy; a national meeting to foster coordination among the sectors responsible for care, with the participation of civil society; the creation of an inter-agency committee to accompany the enforcement of the law on public policies for rural women in the country's various territories; support for projects and initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship, training and development of productive and marketing strategies for women; the creation of an inter-agency committee on violence prevention; and the development of various activities in favour of a democratic parity bill spearheaded by the Grupo Impulsor de la Paridad Democrática, which had incorporated that theme into the public debate.

33. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines first reiterated her country's commitment to the Montevideo Strategy and the SDGs, then spoke of the progress made with regard to the regulatory framework, particularly the Domestic Violence Act, which was harmonized in the territories of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and was a road map for the response and recording mechanisms for domestic violence cases. She added that the national machinery for the advancement of women was developing programmes to encourage commitment to gender equality in schools and initiatives to support parents and empower women heads of household, as well as community anti-violence programmes. She said that the gender equality architecture had been reformed to place this subject under the remit of the ministry responsible for social development and to facilitate coordinated action with the police, family courts, ministries of education and health, and non-governmental organizations. She also highlighted the approval of the creation, in 2017, of a multisectoral committee on gender-based violence. While she noted some progress with regard to the larger number of women in positions of power, she raised a concern about the small budget allocated to the national machinery for the advancement of women and its limited weight in the national budget, in light of which strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies and CARICOM were fundamental. She said that the budgetary challenges affected compliance with international regulations and restricted monitoring and evaluation. Among existing challenges, she underscored the need for improvement of statistical capacities to provide more information on the problems affecting women and the greater vulnerability of the Caribbean to climate change and natural disasters.

34. The representative of Argentina said that as a follow-up to the resolutions adopted at the sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, her country had developed gender equality policies based on the pillars of implementation of the Montevideo Strategy. On the institutional front, she highlighted the creation of the National Institute for Women (INAM), a decentralized entity of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, to reinforce public policies for women's empowerment. She underscored the launch of the 2018–2020 national plan for equal opportunities and rights that included actions to be carried out by the entire public administration in relation to women's physical, economic and decision-making autonomy, in accordance with the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and SDG 5. With regard to the regulatory framework, she spoke of the law on gender parity in political representation, the system of financial reparations for children whose mothers were victims of femicide (the Brisa Law) and the law on mandatory training in gender-based violence for all State officials and workers (the Micaela Law). She also mentioned the challenges relating to laws being debated in parliament, such as those on gender equity and on the voluntary termination of pregnancy. In terms of public policies, she highlighted the 2017–2019 plan of action to prevent, combat and eradicate violence against women; the expansion of capacity of the 144 helpline for women; the establishment of a new national monitoring centre focused on people under house arrest or subject to other forms of detention; and the creation of an observatory on symbolic and media violence by INAM. She spoke of actions taken to encourage popular participation and capacity-building at the State level, and said that the existing budget categories of the public administration system did not allow the automatic identification and quantification of the State's input in areas such as gender and childhood. Nonetheless, progress was being made in the development of a methodology to measure and monitor budget items intended to narrow the gender gap.

35. The representative of Nicaragua said that since 2017 her country had given priority to the elimination of gender gaps, in accordance with the mandates of the Montevideo Strategy. She mentioned, in particular, the comprehensive law on violence against women, penal code reforms, the creation of the family code, the law on equality of rights and opportunities, and the joint work done by the Ministries of Education, Health and Women's Affairs to incorporate gender equality into mindsets. She also highlighted the progress made with regard to gender parity in ministerial and parliamentary posts. Lastly, she said that women were included in all State projects in her country.

36. The representative of Colombia recalled the importance of gender equality for sustainable development and democracy. She said that her country had made progress in that regard with the appointment of a woman as Vice-President and the formation of a gender-balanced cabinet. She spoke of the national development plan and its pact for gender equality that included four dimensions: economic, political, physical and educational empowerment. She highlighted the creation of the Alta Instancia de Género, a high-level national government agency focused on women's rights, to improve inter-agency coordination in the implementation of the gender perspective of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed in 2016 by the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP). She reiterated the proposal to request the secretariat of the Regional Conference to prepare a guide of questions relating to national progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy. Lastly, she said that the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should be complemented by the follow-up of progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy.

37. The representative of Chile recalled that the gender agenda that had been implemented in her country, first by the National Service for Women and Gender Equity (SERNAM) and later by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity, included fostering cultural change and overcoming the structural challenges that impeded gender equality in all spheres. She said that in Chile, women's participation in the labour market was weak (48%) and lower than the average for the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and of Latin America, and that increasing women's participation to the OECD level would boost GDP by 2.52%. She added that the country's gender agenda was based on four pillars: equal rights and duties for women and men; women's autonomy, particularly economic autonomy; zero tolerance for violence against women, in all its forms; and strengthening of female leadership. She said that the Government of Chile was planning a constitutional reform to establish the State's duty to foster equal rights for women and men. She highlighted the public information campaigns against gender-based violence and the draft bill on women's right to a life free from violence. She also mentioned a project that would guarantee universal access to childcare and various mechanisms promoting women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Moreover, she highlighted the creation of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity in 2016, and the representation of women in Congress.

38. The representative of Ecuador said that the implementation of the SDGs had been adopted as public policy in her country in April 2018, and responsibility for follow-up was assigned to various institutions, including the National Council for Gender Equality. She mentioned the national agenda for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, launched in November 2018, and the ongoing process of gender mainstreaming in different sectors. With regard to the prevention and elimination of violence against women, she underscored the adoption of a corresponding law (in 2017) and a comprehensive national system (in 2018) involving the participation of 16 public institutions that included legal measures and initiatives with the Ministry of the Interior, and an early warning system for femicide. She also spoke of the efforts to create a national observatory on gender-based violence against women involving the participation of women's organizations, and the National Crusade against Gender-based Violence, which brought together the system's institutions to prevent and eliminate violence against women

through public policy initiatives. Among the challenges faced, she mentioned the need to focus on prevention and to give wide publicity to the law on violence against women. She also spoke of other initiatives, such as the costing of the implementation of the above-mentioned law at the local level and the development of plans to gradually adapt local services accordingly. She reported on the second survey on family relationships and gender-based violence against women, the results of which were expected to be published in March 2019, and on the 2017 multipurpose survey. With regard to political violence, she mentioned the initiatives of the National Electoral Council and the Institute of Democracy to disseminate among the political parties the existing penalties for discriminatory treatment or unequal budget allocation for men and women. She also presented the proposals to reform the penal code with regard to new types of violence and the decriminalization of abortion in three types of cases. Moreover, she emphasized that the central bank had granted US\$ 10 million in loans to women who were victims of violence and that the implementation of those loans within the framework of the popular and solidarity economy was being considered.

39. The representative of El Salvador underscored the efforts in her country to address adolescent pregnancy, for which an agenda had been established within the framework of the 2017–2027 national strategy for the prevention of pregnancy among girls and adolescent girls. The agenda included initiatives against sexual violence and for teacher training and the promotion of sexuality education, among others. Maternal mortality had been reduced by 56% and access to contraceptives had increased from 15% to 55%. She also spoke of the national health policy for indigenous peoples and the policy focused on rural and campesino women, which had increased access to rural property ownership. She highlighted the creation of 101 units providing assistance for victims of gender-based violence and a special prosecutor's office for crimes of violence and discrimination against women (and assistance for the LGBTI community). With regard to the Ciudad Mujer programme, she emphasized the improvements in the assistance provided in cases of violence against women through psychosocial, legal and empowerment services. She also spoke of the draft bill on the termination of pregnancy in four types of cases, which had not been adopted by the legislature. In terms of mainstreaming the gender-equality perspective and non-discrimination in State entities, she said that the number of gender units had increased to 88 and that 73.6% of municipalities had a gender unit and policies, in accordance with the laws relating to the elimination of violence and discrimination against women. She also spoke of the Ministry of Finance's initiatives to fund measures that promoted the culture against gender-based violence, which complemented the creation of a observatory on gender equality and communication. Moreover, the Department of Statistics and Censuses, with the support of ECLAC, had carried out surveys on time use and on violence. Lastly, she drew attention to the growing conservative movement and called for the strengthening of women's citizen participation.

40. The representative of Panama said that in her country the three powers of the State had helped to guarantee women's rights and that coordination with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance had resulted in an increase in the budget set aside for that purpose. She spoke of the expansion of service coverage and the institutional structure of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) in all provinces and indigenous areas of the country, through centres of the Institute. With regard to economic autonomy, she mentioned a programme that had driven an agenda focused on rural women, which notably included an initiative of the Ministry of Agricultural Development to grant zero interest loans to encourage entrepreneurship among women. In terms of violence against women, she highlighted the signing of a protocol for comprehensive care of women who were victims of intimate partner violence by State institutions related to police, investigative and legal action, and a grant programme for victims of gender-based violence and their children, launched in November 2018 through INAMU centres. She mentioned that health-care establishments had participated in updating the form to report suspected cases of violence against women, which was mandatory throughout the country, while the protection system in shelters for women at high risk had been improved. She also spoke of the Gender Parity Initiative, which sought to unify efforts to ensure economic autonomy, particularly with regard to wage gaps, and the establishment in 2018 of the National Council for Gender Parity. Moreover, she

highlighted a 2018 law that established measures to prevent, prohibit and penalize discriminatory acts, and a police unit specialized in gender-based violence. She also mentioned her country's participation in the UNDP Gender Equality Seal initiative targeting businesses in the private sector.

41. The representative of Uruguay reported on the adoption, in 2018, of a national equality strategy, developed within the framework of the National Gender Council in dialogue with civil society. Progress on the regulatory front included the 2017 law classifying femicide as an aggravating circumstance of homicide, the law on gender-based violence against women, the law to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and the law on public procurement, which prioritized undertakings that included gender equality measures. On the institutional front, she mentioned the work done by the National Gender Council, presided over by the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) and involving the participation of the highest authorities of the country's institutional structure; the creation of an advisory council focused on a life free from gender-based violence against women; the formation of a national care system, implemented with a gender-equality perspective; the establishment of a national council and a consultative committee on that subject; and the development of a 2016–2020 national care plan. She explained that citizen participation was a constant concern, and therefore the entities in the areas mentioned incorporated representatives from organized civil society, including women's and feminist organizations. She said that Uruguay had provided training to social and institutional stakeholders in gender-based violence, strengthened the budgets of the different member organizations of the National Gender Council, and increased the INMUJERES budget by 145%. In terms of communication, she highlighted the campaign on intimate partnerships free from violence launched in 2016, and a road show and media campaign to raise awareness of gender-based violence. Lastly, she highlighted the inclusion of the observatory on gender-based violence in e-government planning and the expansion of triangular cooperation, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and South-South cooperation, with the support of a regional programme for social cohesion in Latin America (EUROsocial).

42. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke of the international agreements signed by her country with regard to women's rights, and highlighted the work done by the National Institute for Women and the existence of 20 regional institutes and 151 municipal institutes. She also mentioned the law on women's right to a life free from violence and the creation of a special jurisdiction for cases of gender-based violence; the formation of 108 specialized public prosecutor's offices and 91 gender-based violence courts at the national level; the establishment of a national public defender's office to protect women's rights; the implementation of a programme to provide shelter for women in imminent danger and their children; and the creation of two helplines. She said that the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as the right to fatherhood and motherhood, were explicitly recognized in the Constitution, which guaranteed care and protection of sexual and reproductive rights, defined as women's human rights. She also reported on the 2014–2019 national plan for the protection of women's sexual and reproductive rights, developed with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and highlighted the role of the community defender programme comprising women.

43. The representative of Cuba reiterated his country's commitment to the agreements of the Montevideo Strategy and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The new Constitution, which would be put to a referendum in February 2019, included changes arising from the public debate that further clarified the role of women in Cuban society. He said that 53.2% of parliamentarians, 48.4% of members of the Council of State and 60% of higher education graduates were women in Cuba, among other figures which showed the participation of Cuban women in the decision-making and public spheres. He placed emphasis on the articles of the new Constitution that established equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity and disability. He also said that the new Constitution included an explicit commitment with regard to the role of the State in women's full participation in the country's development and their protection from all forms of violence.

44. The representative of Guyana said that the Women's Affairs Bureau was responsible for promoting equal rights for women and men. She added that the development of the National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy had begun in 2015, and that it would be implemented in 2019, with the aim of mainstreaming the gender perspective into all State sectors and eliminating practices that impeded gender equality. She said that the Ministry of Social Protection and the Ministry of Education had promoted various campaigns to raise awareness among students about sexuality education and gender-based violence. She also mentioned government initiatives to foster women's economic autonomy, such as training in information and communications technologies (ICTs), childcare and successful entrepreneurship, in 10 regions across the country. Women also received grants to set up small businesses that allowed them to support their families. Initiatives to combat and punish gender-based violence included the Sexual Offences Act, the National Policy on Domestic Violence underpinned by the Domestic Violence Act, and the protocols for medical practitioners, lawyers and police officers, which served as the framework for the fight against all forms of violence and abuse affecting women and children. Lastly, she said that through the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy, Guyana continued to drive programmes and policies to address youth unemployment, adolescent pregnancy, obstacles to the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, gaps between the indigenous populations in rural areas and in coastal areas, and the many challenges relating to poverty and vulnerability of the population.

45. The representative of the Dominican Republic underscored the law on political parties and the ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of ILO as measures aligned with the pillars of the Montevideo Strategy. She said that the Ministry for Women's Affairs, as part of the Sustainable Development Committee, had assumed the responsibility to lead the implementation of SDG 5 and gender mainstreaming in relation to the other SDGs in the country. With regard to the institutional framework, she highlighted the ongoing development of a third gender equality and equity plan and the work done with communities, particularly the creation of a committee headed by the Ministry for Women's Affairs to bring together a group of institutions focused on assistance and prevention of violence against women. She emphasized the campaigns for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy implemented in schools, and courses on new concepts of masculinity, gender-based violence and migration. She also mentioned the country's participation in the UNDP Gender Equality Seal initiative. Meanwhile, the model of offices for gender equality and development, spearheaded by the Ministry for Women's Affairs, had already been adopted by 49 central government institutions, which received training to mainstream the gender perspective into plans and programmes. In coordination with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development, a pilot study had been carried out on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the implementation of the national development strategy, which included guidelines to identify actions and allocate resources that would foster gender equity. With regard to communication, she underscored the work done with the press, and a number of campaigns on women's rights and the fight against gender-based violence. She highlighted the support of ECLAC in the development of a study on unpaid work in the Dominican Republic, and of an observatory on gender equality. She also mentioned some programmes to incorporate women into the field of ICTs.

46. The Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC recalled that the countries had been presenting their reports on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy since the fifty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, in accordance with the commitments made in relation to the follow-up of that Strategy. She expressed her satisfaction at the increase in the number of countries that had presented their reports and said that the exercise would continue at the following meetings in order to prepare a regional report on the follow-up of the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for each session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, from 2019 to 2030. She also recalled that in 2020 the international community would celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) and that its regional follow-up was part of

the regional commissions' mandate. She added that to avoid overburdening countries with demands for reports relating to the Montevideo Strategy and to the review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), inputs from other ongoing review processes should be used, such as reports on the follow-up to commitments relating to gender equality and women's autonomy presented to other ECLAC subsidiary bodies and voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Next, she presented the road map of the preparatory process for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

47. Next, the representative of Ecuador said that her country had already begun gathering data for Beijing+25, with the support of UN-Women, and that the report would be submitted towards the end of May 2019.

48. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) congratulated the countries on the progress made and on the presentation of their reports. She recalled the need to seek synergies between the processes of the different subsidiary bodies of ECLAC. Along with emphasizing the importance of integrating themes relating to sexual and reproductive rights, she offered the support of UNFPA to move forward in that respect.

49. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) congratulated the countries on their progress and reiterated the willingness of UNODC to collaborate on unresolved challenges in thematic areas such as access to justice—especially for victims of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons—the impact of corruption on women and cybercrime. She also said that UNODC was willing to collaborate in order to strengthen government ministries, public defender's offices and all the entities that took care of those victims.

50. The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) said that entity was supporting the countries in political participation through courses provided by the OAS School of Governance and the promotion of legislative advances relating to political violence against women. She said in that area, OAS had implemented a series of initiatives to support the fight against femicide and violence against women, including the publication in 2017 of the *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*.² She highlighted some of the Organization's initiatives, such as courses to strengthen the skills of women candidates participating in elections in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Peru; analysis of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy; and the formation of an expert group responsible for developing a strategy to defend equality for women as a common good.

51. The representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) congratulated the governments on their presentations and progress, and expressed interest in collaborating with the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, which needed all the financial support possible. She highlighted the efforts of some countries relating to the development of policies and plans for equality, and mentioned the support provided by UN-Women to countries such as Argentina and Paraguay in that respect, reiterating the entity's commitment to supporting countries that wanted to develop their equality plans. Lastly, she underscored the importance of the themes of peace and security, particularly with respect to the protection and support of migrant women in different regions, which called for deep reflection.

² Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), *Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention*, Organization of American States (OAS), 2017 [online] <https://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi/docs/TercerInformeHemisferico-EN.pdf>.

52. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported on the work done by that body on environmental issues and mentioned the effects of climate change from a gender perspective as a theme that should be addressed at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She also reminded participants that Chile would host the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which would provide an opportunity to incorporate the approach of the United Nations system into themes relating to climate change effects, and to plan public policies using a multidimensional approach that addressed economic, social and environmental issues altogether.

53. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed her concern about the stubbornly high rates of femicide and the persistence of speech that was contrary to rights in the region, and recalled that the OHCHR Regional Office for South America offered technical assistance for the development of public policies with a human rights-based and gender-based perspective, for which it remained at the disposal of the countries.

54. A representative of the civil society organizations expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the governments relating to the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and called for the strengthening of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

55. The representative of Saint Lucia emphasized that one of the themes that should be highlighted was the need for partnerships, as outlined in SDG 17. She also expressed her satisfaction at the mention of climate change in relation to women, as that was a problem her country faced. She called for reflection on the need for a new approach to public education in order to change patriarchal cultural patterns. Lastly, she mentioned the lack of adequate financing for data collection in small countries such as Saint Lucia.

Presentation of the annotated index of the position document of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4–8 November 2019) (agenda item 6)

56. The secretariat presented the annotated index of the position document of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Santiago in November 2019. The thematic areas on which the document would be based were: (i) gender inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) changing economic scenarios; and (iii) comprehensive policy guidelines for gender equality and women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios. The presentation included a description of the progress made in gender equality in the region (indicators of decision-making, physical and economic autonomy) and in relation to the strengthening of statistical data systems with a gender perspective. The secretariat highlighted the persistence of structural challenges that limited the scope of public policies and substantive equality, and the key aspects of the changing economic scenario the region faced, which were linked to growing global interdependence, the slowdown in growth and rapid progress of digital technologies, against a backdrop of demographic changes and climate change whose effects differed for women and men. Lastly, the secretariat mentioned the importance that would be given to reflection on the design of multidimensional policies that encouraged greater participation of women in the labour market and the equitable redistribution of care work, and the emphasis on policies and governance at the regional and international levels, which reflected the challenges of globalization for gender equality.

57. In the statements that followed, representatives of the countries underscored different themes that they felt should be included in the position document, particularly those referring to the structural challenges that limited progress towards women's autonomy.

58. The representative of Colombia commended the formulation of the proposal and mentioned, as themes that should be incorporated or strengthened in the document, the human rights-based and intersectional approaches, the strengthening of care systems, the deconstruction of gender stereotypes and the gender dimension in environmental themes, including natural disasters and climate change, which affected Caribbean and Latin American countries.

59. The representative of Ecuador spoke of the importance of incorporating the feminist economy perspective into the analysis of the changing economic scenarios that women faced, and the intersectional approach. She suggested that the document should emphasize the gradual nature of the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy and highlighted the importance of preventing the regression of already-established policies that could stem from ideologies contrary to rights.

60. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines requested a more precise definition of the concept of comprehensive laws and emphasized the need to include more information on Caribbean countries in the document.

61. The representative of El Salvador expressed her interest in the inclusion in the document of themes relating to poverty reduction programmes and conditional transfers and their role in creating time poverty and long-term poverty among women.

62. The representative of Costa Rica suggested that emphasis should be placed on care policies and services, and on political violence, as the region was in a paradoxical position in that regard, given that the increase in the percentage of women in positions of political representation had been accompanied by a rise in violence against these women.

63. The representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) suggested focusing on the existing inequalities between women based on income levels and underscored the importance of addressing political violence and violence relating to new communications technologies and social networks. Relevant themes included access to assets, particularly for rural, Afrodescendent and indigenous women, and the link with themes of biodiversity and climate change, and especially with natural disasters and risk governance.

64. The representative of Grenada proposed incorporating into the document the situation of women and girls in changing labour markets. She highlighted some key themes, such as education allowing women to re-enter the labour market, including job retraining, the analysis of access to care services, the offering and quality of paid domestic and care work, and climate resilience.

65. The representative of Paraguay suggested including the portability of social security and emphasized the importance of that issue for women domestic workers and migrant women.

66. The representative of Argentina agreed with other statements about the need to avoid reversing achievements, and underscored the importance of addressing demographic change and climate change, intersectionality and the human rights-based approach.

67. The representative of Mexico said that the document should include a declaration of the principles that defined the contexts of equality, in light of the threats of regression the region faced. She mentioned the importance of coordinating the theme of migration in changing economic scenarios with related problems such as institutional and symbolic violence. She added that points to be addressed included fiscal policies and limiting factors for women's economic autonomy based on their diversity (older, indigenous and young women, for example).

68. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) suggested carrying out an analysis of the conditions of access to decent work for women of the region, broader than the reflection on how the digital revolution and automation created difficulties for women in feminized production sectors. With regard to the theme of violence in the workplace, she recalled that the 108th session of the International Labour Conference (to be held in June 2019) would include this theme for discussion with a view to adopting a convention on the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work, which would introduce an international standard on all forms of violence, beyond harassment and abuse.

69. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mentioned the importance of broadening the analysis of situations of poverty affecting women, incorporating problems of intersectionality and conditions of vulnerability in light of unexpected events such as natural disasters and economic crises. With regard to the document structure, she proposed developing a subchapter on the future of work and another on social protection and care, and incorporating the urban-rural dynamic and territorial inequalities, in accordance with the mandates of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also suggested broadening the themes of climate change and migration, given their implications for the region.

70. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed gratitude for the preparation of the document and mentioned the need to incorporate inequalities from an intergenerational perspective, including themes such as child marriage, early unions and child and adolescent pregnancy and the link with violence and school dropout rates.

71. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) outlined the importance of incorporating themes relating to demographic change as a fundamental element of changing economic scenarios, taking into consideration women's diversity (on the basis of ethnicity, age and territory, among other factors), and the analysis of migration and territorial inequalities. She suggested that the section of the document on physical autonomy should place greater emphasis on health and sexual and reproductive rights.

72. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recalled the centrality of the themes of food and nutrition security, underscoring that in the region 19 million women suffered from food and nutrition insecurity, compared with 15 million men in the same situation, and that in some countries, obesity rates among adult women were 10 percentage points higher than those among men. She suggested deepening the analysis of intersectionalities as a crucial factor of poverty and extreme poverty and incorporating this analysis into public policy recommendations, addressing social protection, especially in rural areas, and bearing in mind the differentiation between climate change and risk in light of disasters, as they represented two different approaches.

73. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) mentioned the importance of incorporating States' responsibility in the implementation of public policies of prevention and psychological, economic and legal support for women, placing special emphasis on girls, women living in rural areas, older women and indigenous women.

74. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recalled the importance of focusing on women with disabilities in the region and how they were integrated into the economic environment, and suggested incorporating themes such as political violence and its relationship with economic interests, and women's greater exposure to violence in the context of climate change.

75. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) highlighted the importance of considering migrant women lacking international protection (in cases of forced displacement, for example) and offered the support of her Office to underscore that point.

76. The representative of Saint Lucia emphasized the need to incorporate into gender inequality analyses information on small islands and the English-speaking Caribbean, as the lack of data restricted the negotiations carried out by the authorities regarding those themes. She underscored the importance of considering the problems faced by refugee and migrant women deriving from climate factors and of including not just forms of structural violence that could have direct effects on women, but also forms of violence that occurred in the cultural sphere and had indirect effects, and the vulnerability of single-parent households headed by women.

77. The representative of Peru commended the preparation of the proposal and highlighted in particular the importance of sexual and reproductive rights and adolescent pregnancy.

78. Lastly, the Social Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC expressed gratitude for the constructive reading of the document conveyed and highlighted the existing agreement among the countries with regard to the themes to be developed in the position document. She said that 30 April 2019 was the deadline for the receipt of countries' and organizations' contributions, and reminded participants that additional contributions to the document could be submitted at the subregional preparatory meetings. With regard to the world of work, ECLAC had developed a broad analysis that went beyond the labour market and included paid and unpaid work. Some inputs, such as the contributions included in *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2018* would be incorporated into the position document. She underscored the importance of migration and regional and international governance agreements, with an emphasis on social protection. She also explained the notion of comprehensive laws on violence, as part of a second generation of laws on violence which involved different spheres of the State and a comprehensive approach to intervention. She expressed gratitude for the relevant documentation submitted for inclusion in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and emphasized the importance of integrating themes relating to sexual and reproductive rights into the sphere of physical autonomy. She also requested the submission of data produced by official government bodies to enrich the work of ECLAC.

Other matters (agenda item 7)

79. Under this agenda item, participants discussed different themes relating to the activities developed by various entities.

80. The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) reported on the proposal of a model comprehensive law to prevent, punish and eliminate the violent death of women on the basis of gender (femicide or femicide). Next, the representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) reported on the launch of a publication on that subject intended to encourage discussion in the countries and underscored the usefulness of the previously mentioned law to create or update legislation on prevention, protection, assistance, investigation, prosecution, punishment and full reparation.

81. The representative of Italy reported on the organization of a forum which aimed to establish a partnership between Italy and Latin American and Caribbean countries on gender equality and invited the countries of the region to participate in that initiative.

82. The representative of the Dominican Republic spoke of the need to implement programmes that addressed the geographic issues and existing gaps between rural and urban territories.

83. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invited participants to reflect on the possibility of incorporating an indicator of child marriage and early unions that would help to quantify the problem in the region.

Adoption of agreements (agenda item 8)

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

Closing session

85. At the closing session, statements were made by Mario Castillo, Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC; Denise Lama, Head of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile; Diana Espinoza, Programme Officer of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Colombia; and Marcela Eternod, Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

86. The Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the meeting of the Presiding Officers had fulfilled all its objectives. He highlighted the presentation of the road map for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an important leadership role played by the Government of Chile. Against a complex macroeconomic backdrop and political uncertainty at the regional and international levels, the strategy for gender equality and progress in social policies should not be merely defensive; social policies for labour inclusion and the renewal of agendas and perspectives also played a decisive role, as shown in the work done by ECLAC. In that regard, there was consensus on the workplan and activities with the countries and United Nations agencies, and moreover, that was reflected in the participation of non-governmental organizations. He said that ECLAC welcomed the countries and relevant actors and facilitated intense and ambitious work by protagonists, namely the governments and civil society, which encouraged the progress of public policies relating to economic, social and technological issues in an innovative manner. In conclusion, he conveyed greetings from the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, who reiterated the Commission's commitment to gender equality and unwavering collaboration in that area.

87. The Head of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile said that the meeting had been productive for experience-sharing on the progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy. She said that the advances recorded in the countries pointed in the same direction and that, although progress had been made, there was still much work to do to achieve gender equality. In all the countries of the region, gaps remained between men and women in terms of economic, physical and economic autonomy, for instance, and to eliminate them the Strategy established a common regional agenda on gender. She recalled that in the region, violence against women remained prevalent, there were more women than men living in poverty, women's participation in the labour market was lower than that of men, women's wages were lower than those of men, there were fewer decision-making forums for women, and discriminatory cultural stereotypes remained that, among other things, influenced the distribution of care work, which continued to fall primarily on women's shoulders. She said that there were many obstacles to overcoming the structural challenges and to changing the norms that perpetuated inequality and discrimination, and the practices that maintained gender stereotypes. The meeting had provided an opportunity to plan the next steps of the preparation of the position document to be presented at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Chile. Lastly, she said that making progress in the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, which had begun 40 years prior, to guarantee women's rights, was a challenge for the countries of the region.

88. The Programme Officer of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Colombia spoke of the commitment of UN-Women and of the United Nations as a whole to ensure that gender equality and women's rights were a consolidated driving force in the new decade. In that regard, the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would contribute to coordination with other international instruments to continue progress in that field, which had been significant, but slow, insufficient and unequal. She reiterated the maximum commitment of UN-Women to continue driving the coordination of activities with a view to realizing efforts in favour of gender equality in the region.

89. The Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked the ministers responsible for the machineries for the advancement of women in the countries of the region, the agencies that had taken on the theme of gender equality and integrated it into their instruments, mandates and policies, the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC for its work in preparing the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and non-governmental organizations and women's and feminist movements for their participation. She said that it was necessary to accelerate the pace of work because the goal was equality, participation and democracy. On behalf of the Chair of the Presiding Officers, she said that the meeting had resulted in the adoption of a set of agreements that facilitated progress towards gender equality in the region.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their fifty-eighth meeting, adopted the following agreements:

1. *Thank* the secretariat for the report on activities carried out since the fifty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 30 and 31 July 2018;
2. *Also thank* the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements for its report concerning the operational rules of the fund, with a view to receiving comments from the countries by 28 February 2019 at the latest;
3. *Request* the working group on the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements to intensify exchanges with the member countries of the working group and with all the delegations of this Conference;
4. *Note* that Argentina and Antigua and Barbuda have joined the board of the regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements for the current period and reaffirm the participation of Ecuador and Panama as members of the board under the leadership of the Chair of the Conference;
5. *Commend* the efforts made by the countries of the region to apply the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and congratulate the countries that have presented voluntary national reports;
6. *Request* the secretariat to convey the guide for the drafting of national reports on progress in the application of the Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, and urge the countries to prepare and convey those reports, in written form, to the secretariat by 30 May 2019;
7. *Commend* the secretariat on the preparation of the annotated index of the position document for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;¹
8. *Intensify* efforts to achieve gender equality and women's autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the face of new challenges arising from changing economic scenarios;
9. *Incorporate* into the position document for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean all the conceptual and thematic contributions raised at the present meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Conference, in order to avoid any backwards steps and strengthen the content of the document;

¹ LC/MDM.58/3.

10. *Endorse* the annotated index of the position document for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and request the secretariat to include the contributions conveyed by the countries and the international agencies by 30 April 2019;

11. *Hold* three subregional preparatory meetings for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from May to July 2019, for the Caribbean in the subregional headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Port of Spain and, in online format, for South America and for Central America and Mexico;

12. *Acknowledge* the work of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and continue to strengthen it;

13. *Convene* the fifty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, prior to the commencement of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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United Nations bodies**

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