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

Virtual meeting, 23–25 February 2021

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1-10	3
Place and date of the meeting.....	1	3
Attendance.....	2-9	3
Chair	10	4
B. AGENDA	11	4
C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS	12-129	5
High-level panel: Women’s autonomy in recovery with gender equality	18-25	6
Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	26-27	8
Report on the outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the outcomes of the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC held since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean	28-32	9
Reports by the countries on the implementation of the Santiago Commitment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.....	33-63	11
Report on the Regional Fund in support of Women’s and Feminist Organizations and Movements	64-68	18
High-level panels: The role of international trade for recovery with gender equality and Challenges of climate change for a sustainable recovery with equality	69-92	19
Special session: regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women	93-120	24
Annex 1 Agreements.....	-	35
Annex 2 Declaration of ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women	-	38
Annex 3 List of participants	-	43

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 sixtieth meeting virtually from 23–25 February 2021.

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, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, 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): Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Canada, Colombia, France, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC were also represented: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, French Guiana, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Martin and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, Resident Coordinators, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Development Coordination Office and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

6. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were represented: 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), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Food Programme (WFP).

7. Representatives of the following specialized agencies also participated: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

8. The meeting was also attended by the following intergovernmental organizations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), ParlAmericas and European Union.

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

¹ See annex 1.

Chair

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

Chair: Chile

Vice-Chairs: Antigua and Barbuda
 Argentina
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Brazil
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 El Salvador
 Grenada
 Haiti
 Jamaica
 Mexico
 Nicaragua
 Panama
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Suriname
 Uruguay

B. AGENDA

11. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. High-level panel: Women's autonomy in recovery with gender equality.
3. Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Report on the outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the outcomes of the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC held since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Reports by the countries on the implementation of the Santiago Commitment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Report on the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements.
7. High-level panels: The role of international trade for recovery with gender equality and Challenges of climate change for a sustainable recovery with equality.
8. Special session: regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Andrés Allamand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Mónica Zalaquett, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. After welcoming the participants, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had highlighted the structural nature of gender inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean and women's high exposure to the effects of the crisis. She said that the Santiago Commitment, adopted by ECLAC member States at the fourteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, was especially important as a regional tool to address the structural causes of gender inequality and to foster policies to respond to the pandemic in the short, medium and long term. Under the Santiago Commitment, the governments of the region had agreed to implement gender-sensitive countercyclical policies in order to mitigate the effects of economic crises and recessions on women's lives. Action had to be taken on three fronts: strengthening gender institutions in the response to the pandemic, consolidating gender information systems and ensuring adequate resources for equality policies. She also underscored the importance in that context of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), adopted in Costa Rica in March 2018, and said that, to avoid setbacks, it was necessary to foster transformative recovery with gender equality, encourage the redistribution of power, resources and time, and advance in building a care society.

14. Next, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that the effective participation of women in the political, economic and social spheres was key to enabling Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome the crisis. She said that the priority theme of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'. She highlighted the partnership between ECLAC and UN-Women and said that, within the framework of the meeting of the Presiding Officers, a special session would be held on the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session. It was an opportunity for the region to speak with one voice at the sixty-fifth session, with the goal of achieving parity democracy. Lastly, she said that the actions

of UN-Women would focus on ensuring that women recovered from the pandemic, based on the thematic pillars of its new global strategic plan, namely: governance and women's political participation, economic empowerment and resilience, ending violence against women and girls, and achieving an environment of peace and security.

15. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile recognized the impact of the pandemic and the crisis on women, and the relevance of the Santiago Commitment one year after its adoption. He recalled that crises also provided opportunities for change; in that case, to enhance women's participation in all spheres and at all levels, closing the gaps that were disadvantaging them. He said it was a priority for the Government of Chile to ensure that women played a leading role in the formulation of post-pandemic economic reactivation measures, and that it was particularly important to address the digital divide. He also stressed that women's political participation was crucial and that the forthcoming constituent process with gender parity would be an exemplary milestone in that regard.

16. Finally, the Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, referred to the ECLAC *COVID-19 Special Report*, No. 9, on the economic autonomy of women in a sustainable recovery with equality, and said that it was essential for all response, recovery and reactivation initiatives and strategies to ensure the participation of women in all areas and at all levels and to incorporate a clear gender perspective. Despite the current adverse context, more and more countries in the region were promoting measures aligned with the Regional Gender Agenda, such as fiscal efforts aimed at women, legislative changes to foster comprehensive care systems, co-responsibility campaigns, strategies to narrow the digital divide and the use of technological tools to offer public services addressing violence against women. She also invited ECLAC member States to join the initiative to create a regional partnership for the digitalization of women, as a follow-up to the agreements of the Santiago Commitment, aimed at helping to close gender gaps in access to and use of technologies and encouraging women's participation in the digital economy. She also stressed the importance of fostering international cooperation and partnerships with the private sector and civil society, including women's and feminist organizations.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

17. The 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.

High-level panel: Women's autonomy in recovery with gender equality (agenda item 2)

18. The panel was moderated by Mónica Zalaquett, Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the panellists were Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women; Epsy Campbell, Vice-President of Costa Rica; Janey Joseph, Director of Gender Relations in the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia; and Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, Researcher with the Interdisciplinary Centre for Public Research (CIEPP) and member of the Executive Committee of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

19. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC referred to *COVID-19 Special Report*, No. 9, and said that the COVID-19 crisis had deepened the structural challenges of gender inequality, had had a negative impact on the employment and working conditions of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and had set

back progress in labour participation by more than a decade. In 2020 a significant number of women had left the labour force and, because of the demands of caring for their households, had not resumed the job search, and 56.9% of women in Latin America and 54.3% of women in the Caribbean were employed in sectors in which the pandemic was expected to weigh more heavily on employment and income.

20. She then highlighted some of the initiatives that governments had taken to address COVID-19 in areas crucial to women's autonomy, in relation to income, employment and care, and that had been included in the gender section of 'Measures and actions at the national level' of the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, she presented the proposals of ECLAC to achieve transformative recovery with gender equality, which included providing an emergency basic income to women who had left the labour force because of the COVID-19 crisis; promoting inclusive digital transformation by giving women access to a basic digital basket and information and communication technologies (ICTs); pushing for a new fiscal covenant with gender equality that would increase incomes, equalize opportunities and create spaces for women's formal participation in the labour force; promoting women's employment in dynamic sectors; and investing in the care economy and building a care society.

21. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women spoke about the challenges of addressing violence against women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was vital that services for women victims of violence be considered essential, that responsibility in the household be shared to reduce unpaid work by women and that data on violence be collected to improve prevention and response in that area. She also spoke of the need for resources to combat gender-based violence as part of measures to address COVID-19, and said that civil society should be recognized as a key actor in the effective response to violence against women. As seen in the gender section of the ECLAC COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries had strengthened helplines for women in situations of violence and she emphasized that campaigns against gender-based violence should continue to be disseminated by community radio stations and in indigenous languages. Finally, she insisted on the need to eradicate all forms of violence against women through an intersectional approach.

22. Next, the Vice-President of Costa Rica said that there were limited data available on the pandemic's exacerbation of structural inequalities, unemployment and poverty among women, and she was particularly grateful for the extraordinary effort by ECLAC to generate data and information. She spoke of the need for a more holistic view of the impact of COVID-19 on women and for an increase in women's access to credit to close the financial gap, the creation of quotas to allow women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and an increase in women's access to the Internet and digital technologies. With respect to the last point, she welcomed the regional partnership for digitalization of women proposed by Chile. It was also necessary to work towards a regional compact on care, which should involve businesses, social organizations and governments. The principle of zero tolerance for violence against women had to be accompanied by options that would allow women to leave situations of violence as soon as possible, along with awareness-raising measures targeting men, so as not to further foster a culture of violence. She was grateful for the space provided by the Presiding Officers to foster partnerships that would allow strong advocacy for gender equality in productive processes that encouraged growth, and combine voices to agree on measures to address post-COVID-19 challenges.

23. The Director of Gender Relations in the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia said that women had been most affected by the pandemic in areas such as unemployment, gender-based violence and increased care burdens. A number of measures had been taken in Saint Lucia to address the crisis, including a six-pillar plan to assist people in need, but most of the resources had gone to masculinized sectors, such as construction. The recovery plan had reduced the tax burden on women and provided low-interest loans to strengthen small businesses. In addition, plans had been implemented for women in situations of violence who had lost their jobs and a centre had been opened to provide temporary accommodation for women who were victims of violence. Special support had also been provided to women front-line health workers, along with psychological training. In concluding, she spoke of the need for a systemic approach to violence against women that challenged stereotypes, and for the recognition of women's contribution to development processes and climate resilience.

24. Finally, the Researcher with CIEPP and member of the Executive Committee of DAWN reflected on the principles for transformative recovery that would guarantee human rights for all, address the causes of inequality and ensure that the sustainability of life played a central role, which meant guaranteeing suitable living conditions. She then listed some elements that should be incorporated into a transformative agenda: the need to discuss women's autonomy considering that the structure of the current economic system generated violence and was based on an extractive logic applied to bodies, resources and data; consider the dynamics of concentration, with an emphasis on redistribution policies, tax systems and evasion; close the digital divide and foster digitization, encouraging modernized teleworking that was not precarious; discuss financialization and debt distress, along with strategies to encourage women's autonomy in that area and question the social organization of care, since the care economy could be a key sector for recovery, but was, first and foremost, a key vector of discrimination that needed to be countered.

25. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Argentina said that the commitments made in the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were a crucial roadmap for the achievement of substantive gender equality and post-crisis action. Gender had to be mainstreamed in all policy areas, including macroeconomics and health, and in immunization strategies. She also stressed the importance of gender-responsive countercyclical policies and of promoting comprehensive gender-responsive care systems, and emphasized that the main challenge was building a care society. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirmed her country's commitment to the advancement of women's rights and gender equality and spoke of the measures it had implemented in that regard. In particular, she highlighted the implementation of the *Soy Mujer* programme, which focused on the inclusion of women in national production processes by supporting productive entrepreneurship with credit, along with progress in women's political participation in participatory and local councils, in the National Assembly, at the ministerial level and in the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic.

Report by the secretariat on activities carried out since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

26. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC referred to the activities carried out at the regional level since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in January 2020. First, she highlighted a briefing with ministers and high-level authorities of national machineries for the advancement of women, held in April, to discuss measures and initiatives implemented to address the pandemic from a gender perspective. At that meeting, the participants were provided with a document that systematized the main measures taken and reported by the governments. She said that the Santiago Commitment and its agreements were more relevant and urgent than ever to the implementation of intersectional policies, from the perspective of women's human rights,

with a multiscale approach and the integration of short-, medium- and long-term measures. ECLAC was recording information on government initiatives to address COVID-19 in the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, which already included 252 measures and actions in the area of gender equality.

27. ECLAC, like the governments, considered gender mainstreaming a key element of its programme of work, and this was reflected in its institutional publications. The *International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020*² included a chapter on gender inequalities in international trade, and the Division for Gender Affairs had also contributed to the *Social Panorama of Latin America, 2020*,³ the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020*⁴ and the *Fiscal Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020*,⁵ among others. The Division had also published a series of documents in 2020 as a result of inter-agency collaborative work on themes such as paid domestic workers, care (with UN-Women), sexual and reproductive rights (with UNFPA) and migration (with IOM). Strategic gender indicators had been updated and disseminated, in synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and work on gender statistics had been strengthened within the framework of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with the aim of breaking the statistical silence on gender. Technical assistance had also been provided on numerous occasions and various courses had been conducted.

Report on the outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the outcomes of the meetings of other subsidiary bodies of ECLAC held since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

28. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Diane Quarless, reported on the twenty-eighth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), recalling that that forum allowed member States to focus on the specific challenges of the subregion, such as the impact of COVID-19 on their economies, the threat of climate change and debt, issues to be addressed in the framework of the implementation of the SDGs. She stressed the importance of tourism for the Caribbean, and the high proportion of women in informal employment in that sector, which had been devastated by COVID-19. The session had also addressed the rise in youth unemployment and the importance of education in driving economic transformation and women's autonomy. The discussion had revealed the inequalities between urban and rural sectors and between high-income and low-income populations. In response to those problems, the Commission had proposed for the coming year the development of a project to address the recovery of the tourism industry, improving its resilience and broadening its diversification. She spoke about the discussions that had arisen on some of the growing challenges for women, such as violence, increased care needs for children who were unable to attend school, and anxiety and psychosocial stress. Lastly, important resolutions had been adopted on COVID-19, debt and the promotion of women's rights.

29. Sebastián Rovira, Chief of the Innovation and New Technologies Unit of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC, said that a presentation entitled 'Digital technologies for a new future' had been given at the seventh Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. Emphasis had been placed on the need to reduce the digital divide, with a focus on socioeconomic aspects and gender gaps. The way in which COVID-19 had widened those gaps

² LC/PUB.2020/21-P.

³ LC/PUB.2021/2-P/Rev.1.

⁴ LC/PUB.2020/17-P/Rev.1.

⁵ LC/PUB.2020/6-P.

had been analysed, and the need to create new instruments to close them had been discussed. A new Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean had been agreed, and incorporated gender equality into some of the objectives, such as strengthening work with companies led by women or promoting non-discriminatory policies. As part of the programme of activities of the Conference, countries were interested in receiving more support for the integration of the gender perspective into their digital agendas. The Conference had also held a workshop with the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs on women's autonomy in the digital economy.

30. Simone Cecchini, Officer-in-Charge of the Social Development Division of ECLAC, referred to the fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had involved a discussion of issues such as the social impact of the pandemic, country responses, and social protection in response and recovery plans. He underscored several synergies between the Regional Conference on Social Development and the Regional Conference on Women, and mentioned different themes related to gender equality that countries had discussed at the meeting. Ecuador had emphasized the need to mainstream gender in social policies; Chile had stressed the importance of closing the digital divide and Argentina had raised the issue of a universal basic income. The meeting had concluded with agreements including on collaborative work to curb the social effects of the pandemic. The Regional Gender Agenda and the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development also offered many synergies, so it was important to coordinate the work of the ministries of social development and the machineries for the advancement of women, addressing gender as a structural axis of social inequality.

31. Next, Rolando Ocampo, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, reviewed the outcomes of the nineteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Among them, he highlighted, for the 2020–2021 biennium, the working group for the development of a methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean, which focused on the systematization of information, the review of time-use classifiers and the use of the Classification of Time Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL). In 2019, the Statistical Conference had recognized the cross-cutting nature of gender mainstreaming and had requested that all working groups incorporate it into their work and report on their progress at the next meeting. The Executive Committee had encouraged countries to strengthen work on disaggregation of data by sex during the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, he said that work was under way to create a database of all time-use surveys in the region to ensure that information was made available to the public in the form of open data.

32. The report on the outcomes of the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC was presented by Luis Yáñez, Secretary of the Commission, who said that the meeting had been widely attended and that, for the first time, a political declaration on a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean had been adopted, which emphasized the deep inequalities in the region, highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis. ECLAC had also presented the document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*,⁶ which identified sectors that could drive sustainable development, and which had been very well received by the delegations. Among the resolutions that had been adopted, with reference to the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, member countries recognized the role of the Division for Gender Affairs and the contribution of UN-Women, and took note of the adoption of the Santiago Commitment as a normative framework on gender equality for ECLAC.

⁶ LC/SES.38/3-P/Rev.1.

Reports by the countries on the implementation of the Santiago Commitment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (agenda item 5)

33. Under this agenda item, representatives reported on progress in the implementation of the Santiago Commitment.

34. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda said that since 2019, the machinery for the advancement of women, the Directorate of Gender Affairs, had been the coordinating body for gender mainstreaming in all public and private spaces in the country, which had allowed ministries and civil society organizations to produce a document on the implementation of an action plan, as set out in the Beijing Platform for Action, along with a report on action taken to address violence against women. In order to tackle the pandemic-induced crisis, priority had been given to ensuring victims of violence had access to justice services, to a multisectoral response and to reproductive health services. Priority had also been given to continuing education and training for health workers, temporary cash transfers and feeding programmes for older persons, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations, and greater digital inclusion of girls in schools. He highlighted efforts to strengthen the involvement of women at different levels of decision-making, and the support provided to women working in the tourism sector who had lost their jobs, including financial assistance for single mothers. Lastly, he underscored the importance of mainstreaming gender in disaster recovery planning to improve adaptation and mitigation policies.

35. The representative of Jamaica recognized the importance of the Santiago Commitment as a guiding instrument for transformative recovery with a gender perspective. Both the National Policy for Gender Equality and the continued implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence were in line with the Commitment. In that context, support for women in situations of gender-based violence had been increased, for example, by disseminating information through helplines and social networks, providing information in Braille to increase accessibility of services, opening the first national shelter for victims of gender-based violence and providing cash transfers for people affected by the pandemic. Emphasis had also been placed on conducting needs-based analyses to determine the scope and differentiated impact of the pandemic, natural disasters and climate change on women's health, safety and protection.

36. She also stressed that the budget allocation to support civil society organizations had been increased and new partnerships had been forged with international partners, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure the fulfilment of political commitments. Support was also being provided to adolescent mothers through access to online training and education, financial training for women who owned micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the continued implementation of programmes to ensure men were involved in the fight against gender-based violence and the pandemic response. Gender mainstreaming and the participatory approach had been applied at all levels, including through an increase in the number of gender focal points in ministries, departments and agencies to ensure that no one was left behind.

37. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognized that COVID-19, a volcanic eruption and the upcoming hurricane season, along with the impact of climate change, put at risk the progress made in ensuring equal rights and the protection of women and girls in the country. His country was committed to fulfilling the agreements of the Santiago Commitment and, in that regard, he highlighted the measures taken by the government, such as the approval of fiscal stimulus packages to combat COVID-19, targeting workers in the tourism sector, farmers, vendors, people in vulnerable situations and women. He referred to the approval of the 2021 budget, aimed at building resilience, strengthening social protection, generating employment and accelerating development. Finally, he called for technical and financial support from other countries to fulfil the commitment to gender equality and provide more opportunities for women and girls.

38. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago said that her country had focused on continuing legislative reform and formulating better policies to empower women and girls and to support and promote gender equality. In order to address violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation, the Domestic Violence Act had been amended to expand the categories of persons eligible for protection and to increase access to protection orders. In the context of COVID-19, electronic hearings, electronic filing of documents and requests by email and telephone were allowed. Amendments had also been made to the law to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years in order to prevent child marriage. In addition, the Gender-Based Violence Unit and two shelters for women who were victims of violence had been established in 2020. Social protection measures for women and families affected by COVID-19 had been expanded, including cash and in-kind transfers, along with financial support for persons working in the tourism sector, many of whom were women.

39. The representative of Belize acknowledged the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women, especially in terms of increased unemployment, burden of care and exposure to gender-based violence, and highlighted the role of the National Women's Commission in national intersectoral coordination efforts to address the crisis. Channels of care and guidance for women in situations of violence had also been expanded through helplines, information on services and reporting mechanisms. She also highlighted the implementation of a multilingual public awareness campaign disseminated via radio and television in English, Spanish, Garifuna, Mopan, Kekchi and Yucatec, and a coordinated package of services for women and girls who were victims of violence, aimed at providing greater access to essential and quality multisectoral services. In addition, she spoke of efforts to promote gender equality in the workplace, including equal pay for equal work and the removal of barriers to women's full and equal participation in all sectors, with a particular focus on promoting greater co-responsibility for care.

40. The representative of the British Virgin Islands once again mentioned the fact that women working in the tourism sector had been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. An economic stimulus package had been approved in response to the financial challenges faced by women and included the provision of unemployment payments to persons made redundant, along with financial assistance to affected businesses and non-governmental organizations. Food assistance had also been provided to households, particularly single-parent households headed by women, in partnership with local civil society organizations, and communication campaigns had been launched to raise awareness, provide guidance and address situations of violence. Moreover, containment of the pandemic had allowed children to begin a phased return to school, which was benefiting girls and preventing potential abuse. In addition, income support programmes had been implemented, investments had been made in infrastructure and housing, and women in the health sector had benefited from protection to carry out their work, along with training and assistance.

41. The representative of Suriname spoke of a project on interventions against gender-based violence in response to COVID-19 measures, which had been launched in June 2020 and included a communication campaign, capacity-building and the establishment of referral pathways with the objective of ensuring the continuation of essential services to address situations of violence. Through the project, extensive communication campaigns on services available to address situations of violence against women had been disseminated and a group of trainers and providers of services for women in situations of gender-based violence had received training. Finally, available providers of services to address gender-based violence had been mapped and information on referral pathways had been published and disseminated nationwide.

42. The representative of Argentina spoke about the different measures and policies promoted during that period in line with the Santiago Commitment. With regard to the eradication of gender-based violence, she highlighted the National Gender-based Violence Action Plan, which was presented by the President. In reference to the pandemic, she said that measures had been taken to safeguard the rights of women and of

gender diverse and non-binary people, such as exempting victims of violence from mobility restrictions during the pandemic or decreeing that the 144 helpline for victims of violence was an essential service. Support had also been provided in terms of the management of shelters for victims, especially of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) persons, and effective access to justice for women who were victims of gender-based violence had been encouraged.

43. Moreover, the creation of the Federal Council to Prevent and Address Femicides, Travesticides and Transfemicides, with the aim of guaranteeing comprehensive and coordinated intervention, had been announced in the Official Gazette. Other initiatives included the establishment of a national interministerial panel on care policies, the *Cuidar en igualdad* national campaign, the creation of the first federal care map with the support of ECLAC, a campaign to encourage co-responsibility and to defend the rights of women domestic workers and the adoption of a decree to ensure that 1% of public sector jobs were reserved for transvestites, transsexuals and transgender persons. Finally, she highlighted the adoption of the Access to Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy Act, which guaranteed universal and free access to voluntary termination of pregnancy and post-abortion care.

44. The representative of Anguilla said that, in compliance with the Santiago Commitment and in order to guarantee women's rights in the context of COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery efforts, a statistical review of incidents of gender-based violence since the beginning of the pandemic had been conducted in collaboration with the Royal Anguilla Police Force and had found an exponential increase in reported cases compared to the 2019 and 2018 reports. To address the crisis, a national mental health and psychosocial support helpline had been established. She also said that training had been organized to ensure the well-being of persons working on the front line and in the tourism sector.

45. The representative of Colombia detailed some of the measures and policies related to economic autonomy, in which women had been considered the pillar of economic reactivation, and referred to the inclusion of the goal of creating jobs for women in the State's agenda. She also spoke of the introduction of the Entrepreneurship Act, which had established the Fondo Mujer Emprende, an autonomous fund to provide resources in support of women's entrepreneurship, and the development of differentiating criteria to encourage the participation of women-owned businesses in the public procurement system. In addition, she mentioned the act which established that the government would finance the incomes of workers in companies: 50% and 40% of women's and men's wages, respectively. Specific subsidies had been granted to provide women living in rural areas with access to housing and a presidential directive had been issued ordering the implementation of projects aimed at maintaining women's employment, reactivating women's employment in masculinized sectors (construction, mining and energy) and encouraging entrepreneurship. She also highlighted the preparation and presentation to Congress of the first report on the budget tracker of women's equity. With regard to political empowerment, the law requiring gender parity in electoral lists for the following year's congressional elections had been enacted in 2020. Finally, for the first time, all municipal and departmental development plans for the period 2020–2023 were expected to incorporate the gender perspective.

46. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis said that, in accordance with the guidelines of the Santiago Commitment, the government of her country had taken various measures to support women and girls during the crisis, such as the Poverty Alleviation Programme, which provided financial support to low-income households and those in which persons had lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, the Social Security COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund was also established to provide financial support to workers whose earnings had been directly affected by the pandemic. Among other measures, the government's stimulus package included moratoriums on mortgage, loan and electricity payments. In addition, psychosocial support was provided through government-run counselling services

and food and care packages had been provided to women in vulnerable situations. The Department of Gender Affairs had revised its adolescent mothers' programme in response to the reality of the pandemic and its economic impact on single-parent households, particularly those with adolescent mothers and girls at risk of abuse, and training had been provided on stress management in the context of the pandemic.

47. The representative of Ecuador said that during the pandemic, in the framework of the Act for the Comprehensive Prevention and Eradication of Gender-based Violence against Women (2018) and through the National System for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender Violence against Women, her country had taken precautionary measures against attempted femicide to assist one hundred women and their children, coordinating operations across provinces to provide protection to the victims and their families or referring them to shelters, and had attended to 27,905 women who were victims of violence through the Comprehensive Protection Services. Progress had been made in the national "violet economy" policy, in partnership with ECLAC, to promote women's economic and social rights and the reduction of different types of violence and to prevent the feminization of poverty. The policy included a short-, medium- and long-term approach that addressed both urgent needs owing to structural factors and new initiatives aimed at increasing the resilience of women-owned businesses, reducing the barriers women faced in accessing and remaining in the labour market, and creating alternatives for women working in the feminized economic sectors most affected by the pandemic. She also said that work was being done to promote the gender parity law, and that the country had been one of the first in the region to ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), which had led to a public policy for the protection of women in the context of harassment at work.

48. The representative of Mexico explained that the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) had succeeded in making gender equality a priority issue for the administration, and that work was being carried out with federal government ministries and municipal and local women's bodies in areas such as economic autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and the various types of violence against women. She said that the government was working intensively on the design and implementation of a national care system, with the aim of guaranteeing models of co-responsibility, expanding access to care services, increasing the participation of the State and private sectors, and advancing recognition of the economic and social value of care. She highlighted the *Paridad en todo* initiative, which reflected the strategy to put women at the centre of public decision-making in the country. In the framework of the first legislature reflecting gender parity, a decree had been adopted amending some articles of the Political Constitution in the area of gender parity. She also said that the Observatory on the Political Participation of Women in Mexico had been created and a legal definition of political violence against women had been established, as well as guidelines for political parties on the subject. Finally, she said that the inclusion of affirmative action for women, in all their diversity, would be particularly relevant in that year's elections.

49. The representative of Costa Rica began by saying that the leadership of the National Institute of Women (INAMU) in addressing gender-based violence had been recognized in a presidential decree, giving it the authority to act in that area, and that INAMU had issued guidelines to support due diligence in the administration of justice. She also spoke of measures related to women's participation in decision-making, such as the discussion of a constitutional reform to support gender parity and the drafting of legislation to address political violence against women. Moreover, economic empowerment programmes had been developed and the National Care Policy had been formalized, and included a road map to expand the coverage of services and to support women's employability. She highlighted the collaboration with the National Production Council, within the framework of the Fund for the Promotion of Women's Productive and Organizational Activities (FOMUJERES), to promote entrepreneurship, and the adoption of the Street Harassment Act and the preparation of the protocol to apply the technical standard for therapeutic abortion. Finally, she highlighted the implementation of a programme on women and climate change led by the Office of the Vice-President of the Republic.

50. The representative of Honduras said that the Santiago Commitment had provided a guiding framework for the measures undertaken by the country in the context of the pandemic. Some initiatives taken were the promotion of guidelines for planning and budgeting with a gender perspective, the creation of a gender equity investment index, the issuance of a mandate for different levels of government to produce gender statistics, and the development of a strategy to mainstream gender in the national planning system. In addition, a legislative decree had been issued on protective measures for women in lockdown, such as mass information campaigns on different forms of violence and the importance of reporting it. Moreover, the Conecta online platform had been created to provide online assistance for victims of violence and the coordination of responses to care had been strengthened. Assistance programmes, including *Operación Honduras Solidaria*, had been implemented for the people most in need, and basic food basket and biosafety products (such as masks and alcohol) had been provided. Additionally, economic support had been given to vulnerable populations, a line of financing had been opened for cooperatives, a direct grant had been created for families and support had been given to entrepreneurs and workers in the private sector. In concluding, she said that work had also been done to strengthen coordination among various actors.

51. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that, despite the pandemic, there had been significant improvements in the implementation of the Santiago Commitment in the country. The Presidential Commission for the Prevention and Control of Coronavirus had been created under the leadership of the Vice-President, and vouchers for persons with disabilities requiring care had been issued, along with vouchers for humanized childbirth and breastfeeding for a period of two years. The free helpline for women in situations of violence and the Argelia Laya Feminist School of the South Foundation had been re-established, with digital campaigns to combat violence. Women's participation in the productive sector had also been encouraged through the provision of low-interest, unsecured loans by the Women's Development Bank (Banmujer) and the right to work had been guaranteed to 40% of working-class women. With regard to sexual and reproductive health, she highlighted the strengthening of the National Plan for the Prevention and Reduction of Early and Adolescent Pregnancy through campaigns at the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels, and the creation of the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Brigades. With regard to humanized mobility, she said that the *Plan Vuelta a la Patria* was being developed to facilitate the return to the country of people who had migrated. Finally, she said that the government remained committed to ensuring equality for women and girls as a fundamental right and was making great efforts to strengthen the social protection system.

52. The representative of the Bahamas said that gender equality and the protection of women and girls remained a top priority for the government, despite the challenges imposed by the effects of Hurricane Dorian and the pandemic. After reiterating her country's commitment to the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 and of the Santiago Commitment, she listed the various measures being taken to address those crises. They included the distribution of food packages and financial support for women affected by the crisis, such as income replacement transfers and rental assistance, along with financial support for MSME owners and tax deferrals, which allowed people to keep their jobs.

53. The government had also provided training for women entrepreneurs, mainstreamed gender in the country's climate change mitigation plans and promoted the education of girls and women in STEM disciplines. With regard to women's political participation, a meeting with women from all political parties had resulted in the submission of a resolution to the House of Assembly with recommendations based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará). In addition, programmes had been implemented for the full participation of boys and men as strategic allies in eradicating gender stereotypes. Before concluding, she called for financial support from donors and member States for the fulfilment of commitments relating to women's training and empowerment, employment and food security.

54. The representative of Cuba said that the fulfilment of the commitments made, including in relation to the Santiago Commitment, was a priority for the country. To address the COVID-19 crisis, Cuba had adopted a preventive and intersectional model for action that incorporated a gender perspective, with more than 500 measures to tackle the pandemic and ensure the protection of the entire population, including the training of technical professionals, health personnel and students, and preventive checks. Regarding measures to address the economic and social effects of the crisis, she said that the Ministry of Labour and Social Security had implemented a wage guarantee for persons over 60 years of age and those with chronic illnesses, amounting to 100% for the first month of unemployment and 60% for the following months, in addition to various social assistance benefits. The wage guarantee also applied to parents caring for young children and the State guaranteed childcare in open educational centres for families that required it.

55. She added that the Ministry of Public Health had decided, together with the Ministry of Finance and Prices, to grant an increase of 250 pesos to health workers. In addition, the National Programme for the Advancement of Women had been adopted, updating the previous one and incorporating the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. With regard to violence against women, she highlighted the updating of protocols for action against violence and the training of actors to implement them; the creation of a mobile application on violence and spaces where assistance could be sought; the *Juntos por la No Violencia de Género* campaign and the preparation of a guide for comprehensive intervention against gender-based and domestic violence in conditions of social isolation owing to COVID-19. Finally, she said that policies were being designed, with technical assistance from ECLAC, to ensure better care and assistance for families.

56. The representative of Peru said that the Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Gender Equality of the National Gender Equality Policy, which recognized inequality as a public issue of structural discrimination, had been launched in January 2020. As a result of the pandemic, action against violence had been made a priority, and measures such as making care for victims of violence an essential service without operating restrictions had been adopted. The National System for the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women and Family Members had been strengthened as a budgetary programme. She also said that the country had made a special effort to address cases of missing women, especially girls, young women and adolescents, and had therefore developed a strategy for the interoperability of actors and training for emergency alerts and the implementation of a protocol for missing person cases. A new domestic workers act had also been passed, in line with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and Law No. 31030 on parity in various positions of representation had been submitted to the Peruvian parliament. In addition, regional networks of businesswomen and women entrepreneurs had been created to encourage their economic inclusion and, in September 2020, the National Committee on Women and Climate Change had been established for the timely management of measures in that area.

57. The representative of Chile said that the government had focused its efforts on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the responses to COVID-19, in the sectoral emergency plans of the different ministries, in subsidies and cash transfers, and in the recovery and reactivation strategy, encouraging women's participation in dynamic sectors. She highlighted the creation of the COVID-19 Women's Council, a multidisciplinary group that had worked on short- and medium-term proposals in three areas: protection (violence and access to health), economic reactivation, and care. With regard to the decline in women's labour participation and the increase in the burden of unpaid and care work within households, she recalled the central role of employment protection and women's labour participation. In that respect, she highlighted measures such as the Protected Parenting Act, the Protege employment subsidy and strategies to promote production with a gender perspective.

58. She then spoke of the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement within the framework of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG) and the gender equality road map of the Pacific Alliance. She underscored the importance of closing the technology gap and referred to the *Mujer Digital* programme, stating that the priority was to increase digitization among women. She also spoke of the use of technology to make new modalities of care and communication channels available to women in situations of violence. Finally, she said that Chile was leading the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality at the Generation Equality Forum and would be promoting the regional partnership for the digitalization of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which aimed to close gender gaps in access to and use of technologies and encourage women's participation in the digital economy.

59. The representative of Panama said that the National Institute for Women (INAMU) had promoted measures to address situations of violence against women and girls, such as strengthening inter-agency partnerships, expanding the coverage of services in hard-to-reach areas and disseminating information on helplines for women in situations of violence. She also said that a number of private sector organizations, government agencies, civil society organizations and multilateral institutions were working together to increase women's economic participation and close economic gender gaps. She underscored the measures aimed at reactivating the economy, such as the *Panamá Solidario* programme, which provided support to cover food, hygiene and medicine needs, along with those aimed at supporting women-owned MSMEs and strengthening their participation in them. She also spoke of the *Mujer Emprende Export* programme, which aimed to boost and promote the export capacities of companies led by women. She said that initiatives had been promoted in STEM fields and in the narrowing of the digital divide, for example the *Pioneras de la ciencia en las mujeres panameñas* project. Priority had been given to women health workers and front-line nurses in order to protect their health and human resources policies had been managed in those essential services organizing schedules and links with dependents.

60. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that the budget allocated to the Ministry of Women had been increased in order to ensure the expansion and improvement of the quality of services related to gender-based violence through, inter alia, 12 new shelters; the development of a strategic plan for a life free of violence for women from 2020–2024; continued efforts to improve women's access to justice and ensure protection for women at risk of violence; the creation of a specialized unit within the police force; and the establishment of a comprehensive reparation policy for women that included, inter alia, a cash transfer. Legislative initiatives had also been promoted to prohibit the legal dispensation allowing child marriage. She also highlighted the inclusion of women in social protection and employment policies, such as the *Quédate en Casa* programme, and investment in the development of MSMEs in the border area. Finally, she reaffirmed the government's support for the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements.

61. The representative of Uruguay highlighted her government's implementation of emergency response policies relating to gender-based violence. With regard to the food response, a system of food baskets had been developed and the amount of the Uruguay Social Card (TUS) had been raised, family allowances had been increased, food allowances had been tripled and plans had been improved to broaden their scope and incorporate the gender perspective. In relation to gender-based violence, a 20% budget increase had been approved for the National Women's Institute to grow investment in the gender-based violence response, helplines and the police response had been expanded, gender-based violence response services had been developed for care that could not be provided in person, and psychological care services had been provided to people who were isolated or depressed as a result of the pandemic or work or family situations.

62. In terms of economic autonomy, she highlighted the creation of a strategy for projects to foster, support and accompany economic initiatives related to women entrepreneurs, employees and cooperative members (a strategy that integrated the care dimension); proposals to include gender clauses in free trade agreements; and digitization, digital literacy and job training programmes. She also stressed the importance of generating knowledge and statistics related to unpaid work, and spoke of the implementation in the second half of 2021 of the second national time-use survey. Finally, she said that it was important to work on mechanisms to ensure full participation, and gave as an example the plan to set up a training centre for political leaders.

63. The representative of Nicaragua said that the government had promoted women's rights and affirmative action in terms of access to health, education, production and credit for all. Institutions were coordinated and working together to address violence and ensure access to justice, and in 2020 work had been done to update the legal framework, with the enactment of the Special Law on Cybercrime. She also mentioned other measures and actions, such as the campaign *Mujeres por la vida, mujeres en paz y bien*, which provided training on women's rights, and helplines to address situations of violence and file reports online. She also spoke of measures to increase the productive and entrepreneurial capacity of women in rural and urban areas; family vegetable gardens headed by women; and training for women in agricultural entrepreneurship and marketing.

Report on the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements (agenda item 6)

64. The Head of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile —representing the Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean—acknowledged the value of the initiative of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, highlighted the contribution of feminist organizations in the region to the process and said that it represented the spirit of cooperation in pursuit of transformative change. She recalled that the pandemic had delayed the launch of the fund and stressed that it was urgent to resume preparations and launch the call for proposals. As part of the progress made, she said that at the meeting of the board of directors of the Fund, UN-Women had been designated as the managing entity of the resources, and would also contribute technical support, advice, risk management, monitoring and results-based evaluation.

65. She then explained that the board of the Fund had requested that UN-Women provide an updated proposal for the management of funding. In addition, at the meeting of the board of directors, civil society representatives had proposed a work plan for 2021 that included mobilizing public and private resources, organizing events with potential donor countries and organizations, designing and promoting dissemination campaigns for the Regional Fund, and establishing accountability processes. Moreover, the first contribution to the Regional Fund had been announced (US\$ 50,000 from Mexico) and UN-Women had also announced that it would match that contribution. The Head of the Department of International Relations said she hoped that those contributions would make it possible to establish an effective fundraising strategy, and that they would encourage other actors and countries to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of the Fund.

66. The representative of Articulación Feminista Marcosur and member of the board of directors of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements stated, on behalf of civil society, that it was a key moment to support the Fund and called on the governments of the region to make their contributions, so that they would not come only from developed countries. She said that the crisis had exposed the terrible inequality in the region and that the care economy had been the only one that

had not collapsed, both at the household and the community levels. She stressed that the easing of the crisis was occurring at the expense of women, and that in order to rebuild and achieve the SDGs, attention had to be paid to the care economy. The purpose of the Fund was to strengthen women and organizations, and to combat inequality in the region.

67. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Mexico underscored her country's commitment to the Fund and confirmed the announcement of a contribution of approximately US\$ 50,000. She added that it was important not only to foster feminist domestic policy but also to contribute to feminist foreign policy. She hoped that the Fund would receive the support needed to ensure its success and that it would be possible to provide real help to civil society organizations, in order to encourage creative and innovative ideas to address the crisis.

68. The representative of UN-Women said that the Fund had to be financed with clear commitments from the countries of the region, and also from other governments and international organizations, and reiterated her interest in promoting the Fund's first campaign for contributions and awards. She noted that there were few studies on the sustainability of feminist organizations in the region and added that many organizations were seeing their income sources depleted. She also said that the Fund would help to ensure the sustainability of women's organizations at all levels and that the strengthening of the social fabric contributed to the quality of development, peace and democracy. Finally, she hoped that the fund would not only be launched, but also grow and be recognized worldwide as an innovative financing for development mechanism.

High-level panels: The role of international trade for recovery with gender equality and Challenges of climate change for a sustainable recovery with equality (agenda item 7)

69. The high-level panel on the role of international trade for recovery with gender equality was moderated by Mario Castillo, Chief of the Division of International Trade and Integration of ECLAC, and the panellists were: Marsha K. Caddle, Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados; María Alejandra Muñoz, Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador; Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; Carolina Valdivia, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile; and Mariama Williams, Specialist in gender equality and trade.

70. The Chief of the Division of International Trade and Integration of ECLAC spoke of the importance of trade in boosting employment and growth. He said that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had shown the asymmetries and vulnerabilities within and between countries and had also weighed heavily on international trade, leading to a decline in the value of exports and imports. There was a need to ask whether international trade reduced, reproduced or amplified gender inequalities and he invited the panellists to exchange views on how to steer trade towards transformative recovery with equality. Finally, he stressed the importance of women's participation in digital integration.

71. The Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados said that the tourism, restaurant, domestic services and retail sectors had been hardest hit by the pandemic and were also sectors dominated by women. Her country had developed the Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) programme, which aimed to protect jobs in hotels and restaurants so that people could continue to receive 80% of their wages thanks to government subsidies. She also highlighted the creation of new roles to strengthen the care economy, for example community workers who visited homes to provide care, especially for older persons and children. On the future of trade, she noted that Barbados was a small insular economy and therefore needed to make major changes to reduce its dependence on tourism and the international economy; for example, restructuring the labour market and creating new jobs that would lead

to more skill-intensive economies that were resilient to the effects of climate change. Women had to participate in the digital economy, the recovery should involve both the formal economy and households, and the country was working on a population policy that incorporated the care economy.

72. The Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador said that the adequate employment rate among women was 10% lower than that among men in the country, and that most of the business closures during the pandemic had affected sectors in which women worked and SMEs, many of them managed by women. Furthermore, in rural areas, women worked 25 hours per week more than men and 6 hours more than women living in urban areas. COVID-19 had changed the dynamics of trade, increased the percentage of international traders and generated new forms of employment. The Trade Facilitation Agreement allowed for the simplification and streamlining of trade. She shared Ecuador's experience in implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the strategy for increasing the participation of women in managerial positions in the customs sector. During the pandemic, the number of traders had risen by 25%, and women accounted for 80% of that increase. She added that credit for women-led SMEs linked to the export sector had risen by 70% and that credit had been approved for business activities of women in rural areas, a significant proportion of which were geared towards international trade. In conclusion, she noted that more women were needed in managerial positions in international trade and that it was essential to promote equality measures to close gaps.

73. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama said that countries would have to foster the recovery of international trade, which had plummeted because of the pandemic, through public policies and international agreements. She insisted that women had to play a leading role in that process, recognizing the unequal impact of the crisis on women and the major opportunity presented by the recovery process. Women needed specific training in sectors that were considered key, such as logistics, where their wages were higher. She added that accountability with regard to gender equality was crucial to a post-pandemic recovery with equality.

74. The Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile said that the country had been working for years to encourage more inclusive international trade. She cited as an example the incorporation of chapters on gender and trade into several of Chile's free trade agreements with other countries —as specific chapters and not only into chapters on labour or cooperation. The treatment of gender and trade had also been addressed in plurilateral and multilateral agreements, and the signing of the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement by the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG), comprising Canada, Chile and New Zealand, represented a major commitment in that regard. The countries had already begun collaborating by sharing good practices and measures had been taken in multilateral forums. Meanwhile, Chile continued to promote gender equality in the Pacific Alliance, especially in the context of the crisis scenarios arising from the pandemic.

75. The Undersecretary mentioned the adoption of the La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth of the Asia-Pacific Economic forum, which included specific actions and targets to encourage the participation of women in international trade. She also stressed the importance of generating data with a gender perspective, which had been incorporated into the Pacific Alliance through a document that reported on the main challenges that women entrepreneurs in those countries faced in the current context. Chile participated in the informal group on gender and trade in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and also in the Friends of Gender Equality Plus group of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). At the national level, she highlighted ProChile and the *Mujer Exporta* programme, which targeted women exporters and aimed to involve them in international trade.

76. The specialist in gender equality and trade, Mariama Williams, said that Latin American and Caribbean economies' heavy reliance on trade could be very useful for the recovery. The crisis affected women more in terms of loss of employment and income, increased unpaid work in the household and violence. Women had been particularly affected in the small island States of the Caribbean, which depended heavily on tourism, since that sector, like the clothing and food sectors, was dominated by women. The same was true in the areas of culture, social services, education and health, among others. She stressed the importance of measures such as investing more in care services; revitalizing tourism, manufacturing and food; driving the e-commerce agenda; strengthening infrastructure to boost trade and post-pandemic recovery; investing in women's training; formulating countercyclical policies to promote trade; investing in digital platforms and developing trade policies to foster multilateral cooperation and facilitate the participation of SMEs in global value chains.

77. She underscored the importance of integrating those measures into joint initiatives adapted to the needs of each country, with concrete priorities and goals. There was a need to evaluate the outcomes of trade agreements, for more technical cooperation, and to provide aid for global and regional trade. ECLAC, civil society and other actors had to support and urge governments to mainstream gender into fiscal policy, trade policy, aid for trade and assistance to the most affected sectors. More data was also needed on the impact of each policy on women. She added that trade policy had to be formulated in close association with climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, especially in Caribbean countries. Finally, she said that more work was needed to ensure that gender advocates and civil society had the skills and training required to further strengthen discussions on gender issues, and that training for negotiators and policymakers on gender issues was essential.

78. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of INMUJERES of Mexico said that international trade had grown in Mexico, but had not brought the same benefits for men and women. INMUJERES, together with the Ministries of Finance and Public Credit, Economy and Culture, were promoting the Comprehensive Strategy to Promote the Economic Autonomy of Women in Situations of Violence. Moreover, the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States and Canada (USMCA) was an achievement for the three countries, given that its objective was the improvement of production chains. Unlike the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), it explicitly sought to address gender inequality, as it included a Competitiveness Committee to advise SMEs and other underrepresented groups, such as women, indigenous peoples and young people, and included a specific chapter on SMEs. She also highlighted the strategy for the advancement of women exporters, *MujerExportaMx*—aimed at national companies owned by women who wanted to access international markets—and the *Autonomía de las Mujeres en la Transformación Digital* strategy, through which training was provided to women entrepreneurs of micro-businesses to boost their participation in the digital market.

79. Next, the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico listed different policies implemented within the framework of the National Programme for Equality between Women and Men 2020–2024 (PROIGUALDAD) and the various measures aimed at incorporating the gender perspective into the National Climate Change Strategy and the National REDD+ Strategy. Lastly, she spoke about the preparation of a national atlas of vulnerability to climate change with a gender perspective, with information disaggregated by sex at the territorial level, and added that, as part of Mexico's feminist foreign policy, a series of administrative reforms were being made in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to recognize and add visibility to women's contributions to foreign policy, and an initiative was being promoted in the Senate to mainstream the principles of parity, substantive equality and non-discrimination in the foreign service.

80. In closing remarks, the representative of Barbados said that it was important to include the issue of the financial architecture for recovery in order to avoid a new debt crisis in low- and middle-income States. She reiterated the need for debt restructuring, lower interest rates and fiscal space for equality. Finally, she stressed the importance of digital commerce and of training women in that area, something that the Caribbean would focus on going forward. The representative of Chile said that the post-pandemic recovery had to incorporate the gender perspective, and that it was important to continue working on plurilateral and multilateral partnerships and agreements. The specialist in gender equality and trade said that the time was critical, and that there was a need for economic diversification and acceptance of the essential nature of the care economy and its excessive burden on women. In closing, she insisted that the advancement of public policy required financing and public investment.

81. The panel on challenges of climate change for a sustainable recovery with equality was moderated by Ana Gúezmes, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, and the participants included: Delphine O, Ambassador of France and Secretary-General of the Generation Equality Forum (video message); Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vice-President of Colombia (video message); Parnell Charles Jr., Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica; Marcela Guerrero, Minister on the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) of Costa Rica; and Lorena Aguilar, Specialist in gender equality and climate change.

82. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had revealed structural flaws in the region and the world, highlighting the unsustainability of the dominant production, distribution and consumption patterns in economies, as well as profound gender inequalities. Amid that backdrop, ECLAC had urged countries to move towards recovery strategies which placed equality and sustainability at the centre. As had been pointed out prior to the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers, it was essential to advance towards a care society that protected the planet and people and placed the sustainability of life at its core.

83. Five years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, while countries had made efforts to mainstream gender into plans and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), there was still a long way to go. She made a brief reference to the forthcoming entry into force of the Escazú Agreement and, finally, noted that the aim of the panel was to provide a space to present and discuss the opportunities and challenges relating to the achievement of sustainable recovery with equality. Another goal was to see how much progress countries had made in implementing the Santiago Commitment, which included specific measures on gender and climate change, in order to identify initiatives that would advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, and to define the role of machineries for the advancement of women in that area.

84. In her video message, the Ambassador of France and Secretary-General of the Generation Equality Forum commended ECLAC for organizing the event, which put a spotlight on gender equality and climate justice. She said those would be central themes at the Generation Equality Forum—which would begin in Mexico City in March 2021 and end in Paris in July of that year—and that a coalition of feminist action for climate justice was being developed. Since women were much more affected by climate change, desertification, natural disasters and migration, it was essential to recognize them as agents of change for a sustainable world. They should be trained to play negotiating roles at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in the field of science to combat climate change. Finally, she invited the participants to the Generation Equality Forum and recalled the importance of moving towards the world proposed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

85. The Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change of Jamaica underscored the importance of discussing the connection between gender equality and climate change. Since 2018, Jamaica had been integrating the gender perspective into adaptation plans, with the collaboration of several specialists. He acknowledged that COVID-19 had created difficulties and challenges in terms of gender equality, and had revealed the differences in the way women and men were affected by crises. Jamaica, with the support of UNDP, was involved in a programme to identify the linkages between gender and climate change, strengthening the relationship between the public and private spheres and seeking the necessary funding to address those challenges. In the context of COVID-19, women's exposure to situations of gender-based violence had increased, as had the workload in households. In Jamaica, the Climate Change Advisory Board supporting the Ministry reflected gender parity and it was hoped that that initiative would be replicated in all other governmental bodies.

86. The Minister on the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) of Costa Rica said she hoped that, beyond the challenges that the pandemic had exposed, progress could be made in addressing climate change in the region. Costa Rica had taken important steps since the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), adopting legislation to drive the energy transition. In order to ensure good governance, there was a need for parity in leadership, along with recognition that the climate issue did not only involve the environment, but also development. With regard to development from then until 2030, there could be no gaps in terms of women's representation and, in that regard, Costa Rica had decided that women should have a voice in international bodies.

87. It was fundamental to develop an international agreement that would take into account the differentiated impacts of climate change at the local level and, in particular, shed light on the situation of women living in coastal areas, in border areas or in urban centres. She then highlighted three points: (i) Costa Rica was working to ensure that the financial sector included gender mainstreaming in financing (in the form of climate bonds, green bonds and social bonds), (ii) it was necessary to rethink fiscal reform to facilitate affirmative action for women living in the territories from an intersectional perspective, and (iii) INAMU had a fund that, in 2021, would be dedicated to the implementation of affirmative action for women in the primary, services and commercial sectors. Finally, she called for a coalition of feminist action for climate justice.

88. The specialist in gender equality and climate change listed some areas in which machineries for the advancement of women could foster action to integrate the gender perspective and the fight against climate change; for example, normative frameworks, research and data, capacity-building, representation and participation, financing, implementation and accountability. Possible measures included harmonizing national climate change normative frameworks with gender equality mandates, providing machineries for the advancement of women with the necessary human and financial resources, and promoting the design of training programmes on gender and climate change.

89. Next, she said that there was a need to understand the financial architecture associated with climate change at the national level and to define procedures to ensure the operationalization of the mandate of the funds for the formulation of gender-sensitive projects or initiatives. Finally, she said that it was imperative to incorporate the gender perspective into the reports presented in the framework of UNFCCC, national communications and progress reports on NDCs, and into other documents, such as national adaptation plans and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs). There was also a need to include climate change issues in reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and in the follow-up to regional and international commitments on gender equality.

90. In the ensuing discussion, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that the proposal of the specialist in gender equality and climate change would subsequently be shared with the delegations and that the video of the presentation by the Vice-President of Colombia was available on the meeting website. The representative of Costa Rica said that, within the framework of the Conference, special attention had to be paid to the effects of climate change in specific territories and subregions, such as the Caribbean and Central America. The representative of Ecuador said that the National Council for Gender Equality, together with the Ministry of the Environment and Water, led a technical panel on gender and climate change, a space where different organizations developed strategies to support the formulation of climate change policies with a gender perspective, and which facilitated the generation of knowledge, sharing of experiences, provision of training and formulation of policies. Support had also been provided for the preparation of the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan, a technical and policy instrument for planning, implementation and follow-up, which identified gaps from a gender perspective.

91. The representative of the Afro-Colombian women's networks stressed the importance of valuing the contributions of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, which were key to sustainability. Women's "ancestry" and knowledge were a key element for the transformation and design of public policies to address climate change. She stressed the importance of including the voices of Afrodescendent and indigenous women in all initiatives related to the design and implementation of public policies on climate change. Finally, the Gender Regional Team Leader of UNDP spoke of the UNDP process of accompanying NDC programmes in the countries in the region, referred to a UNDP document on good practices on gender and climate change, and highlighted the importance of accelerating the implementation of commitments made in that area.

92. In closing remarks, the specialist in gender equality and climate change said it was necessary to advance in the identification of "promising" practices and to shed light on the contribution of women's organizations in the territories, in order to move towards a development model that placed the sustainability of the environment and people at the centre. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC closed the panel by stressing that action was needed immediately, and that ECLAC was calling for progress towards transformative recovery with equality and sustainability.

Special session: regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (agenda item 8)

93. The session entitled 'Women's participation and full and effective decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence: towards the consolidation of parity democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean' was moderated by Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of María-Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women, and Beatriz Llanos, Doctor in Government and Public Administration and author of the base document for the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

94. In her opening remarks, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that, in recent years, UN-Women had advocated for the region's message for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be agreed and based on the commitments made by governments in the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. She noted the importance of promoting parity and the full participation of women in decision-making in order to have effective and quality democracies. The participation of women—in all their diversity—in decision-making allowed for more sustainable governance and responses to crises and conflicts from different perspectives. She highlighted the role of women leaders around the world who had handled the health and political crisis differently. Argentina had been the first country to adopt a quota law, eight countries already had parity

laws and progress had been made in addressing violence in politics, for example, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Chile's constituent process represented an opportunity in that regard and Mexico would include the *Paridad en todo* initiative in its 2021 electoral process.

95. Those processes were also the result of the efforts of feminist organizations, diverse women, women's political networks and other alliances, but it was necessary to remove the structural barriers to participation that women still faced, including poverty, an excessive care burden or gender-based violence, virtual or physical, as well as unequal access to health care and sexual and reproductive health care, education and technology. She stressed the importance of the equal participation of women in all their diversity from an intersectional perspective and said that the Declaration by Ministers and High-level Authorities of the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women would be a contribution to the Commission. She also welcomed the consultation held in the Caribbean and stressed the importance of raising those contributions, presenting them as the region's input to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. In concluding, she said that the region needed parity democracy to emerge successfully from the crisis, and that the current generation should be the generation of equality.

96. The representative of Argentina reiterated the importance of equality in political participation to ensure substantive gender equality and to materialize it in the exercise of rights, and recalled that there was a clear and shared road map in that regard, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Quito Consensus, the Montevideo Strategy and the Santiago Commitment. Those agreements had served as a basis for the development of initiatives in all countries of the region. With regard to Argentina, she highlighted the creation of the Ministry for Women, Gender and Diversity, which included a National Directorate for Comprehensive Policies on Sexual Diversity and Gender that worked towards the political participation of women and diverse groups. The measures taken in 2020 included the creation of the Federal Panel for Gender Parity and against Political Violence, in which more than 30 political parties participated, in accordance with the Gender Parity in Political Representation Act (2017).

97. Work had also been carried out with provincial governments: seven provinces had adopted parity laws and only three had no such legislation. In addition, one of the fundamental objectives of the Ministry was to foster a comprehensive reform of the care system to ensure redistribution. Within the national executive branch—particularly in the Office of the President—a protocol with a gender perspective had been adopted for hearings to facilitate the participation of women and LGBTQI persons. The tools to resolve the existing challenges of inequality were clear: it was necessary to reach local governments and trade unions, and to reform the judiciary. Lastly, she expressed the hope that Latin America and the Caribbean would be an active participant in the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and that the region would lead with substantive changes.

98. Next, the Doctor in Government and Public Administration presented the base document for the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She said that the document was anchored in the normative framework and international political agreements along with those of the Regional Gender Agenda, which referred to a shift from formal to substantive equality. The document contained a broad definition of “public life”, which incorporated the participation of civil society and women's and feminist movements. She listed some of the recent advances, such as the fact that women's participation in the legislative branch had increased since the 1990s, that in the executive branch there had been a historic increase in the number of women in cabinet positions, and that there had been two female prime ministers in the Caribbean. However, the judiciary was a challenge, as its glass ceilings and pyramidal structure remained intact, and there was a large gap at the local level, where participation had risen from 5% in the 1990s to 15.2% at the time.

99. Challenges remained with respect to both access to positions (funding) and the exercise of those positions (effective decision-making). Gender stereotypes were a major barrier, which reinforced male leadership, so progress in cultural change was necessary. In addition, women who were human rights defenders or indigenous or part of the LGBTQI population, for example, were at greater risk. In the region, there were multiple strategies to address political violence: laws were being drafted, but the resources to implement them were often lacking. She said there had been progress in terms of defining, mapping and shedding light on violence through digital media and highlighted the role of feminist, women's and diversity movements. She said the recommendations included in the document aimed to ensure that there were no setbacks, but rather advances, and then presented its five pillars: (i) strengthening the normative, legal, regulatory and public policy frameworks; (ii) preventing and eliminating violence against women in public and political life; (iii) strengthening gender-responsive institutional, social and cultural reforms; (iv) increasing the availability of quality funding for women's participation in public and political life; and (v) strengthening women's voice and leaving no one behind in public life.

100. In the ensuing discussion, the Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile said that 2021 was a historic year for women's political participation in the country, thanks to the Constituent Convention with gender parity promoted by feminist movements and committed women parliamentarians. With that, Chile would become the first country in the world to carry out a constituent process with gender parity. However, there was still a long way to go in terms of women's full participation in public life and decision-making. To achieve that, there was a quota law for parliamentary elections, and the government was promoting the discussion of another quota law for positions of popular representation at the municipal and regional levels. She also said that the National Service for Women and Gender Equity (SERNAMEG) was implementing the *Mujer y Participación Política* programme to strengthen women's empowerment as citizens, and that the Ministry was about to launch a digital guide for women who wanted to run for office. In addition, the Ministry was committed to eradicating political violence against women and a protocol addressing that issue had been sent to all political parties in the country.

101. The representative of the National Secretariat for Women's Policies of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Family and Human Rights of Brazil stressed the importance of women's participation in politics and mentioned the *Mais mulheres na política* campaign to promote it. Among the initiatives to encourage women's participation in the electoral process, she highlighted a memorandum of understanding with 18 political parties and training courses for women candidates and their teams. In addition, an agreement would be signed that year to implement courses for women parliamentarians. Measures had also been taken against political violence against women; for example, the helpline to report violence against women could also be used to report political violence, and the *Não à violência política* seal had been launched, with the aim of increasing the visibility of the issue. In conclusion, she said that, in Brazil, democracy would only be consolidated by increasing the representation of women in politics.

102. The Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina referred to inequality in care as an obstacle to the exercise of women's rights in public and political life. There were still challenges to achieving full democracy, such as dismantling persistent patterns of inequality. The region had to work to tackle those challenges, especially at the local levels and in the judiciary, but also in the labour market and in trade unions. It was important to focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) persons. In that regard, the perspective of "women in their diversity" was not sufficiently incorporated throughout the document, and Argentina suggested broadening its focus to include all identities. Moreover, in the sections dedicated to political violence, it was important to consider the recommendations to States included in the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life, adopted in 2016 by the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI).

103. Martha Lucía Micher, Chair of the Committee for Gender Equality of the Senate of Mexico, referred to some of the advances in the country, such as a constitutional reform known as *Paridad en todo* and the fact that the current legislature had been dubbed the “Legislature of gender parity” because women’s participation in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate stood at almost 50%. She said there was a need to discuss the importance of training and specialization in the relevant bodies, once reforms were implemented. Finally, she suggested the inclusion of gender-based political violence against women not only in the criminal codes, but also in the different regulations.

104. The representative of Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas said that a summary of their positions had been prepared at the previous meeting of civil society organizations of the region, to facilitate active participation in the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Women’s participation had advanced because of the push from women’s movements, but in some countries, quotas had become the ceiling rather than the floor. Increasing women’s political participation required the commitment of States. However, that increase was often accompanied by political violence, which in most cases went unpunished, and there were sexist practices in the organizations that hindered women’s participation. The inclusion of women had occurred without a gender perspective or commitment to the feminist agenda, and it was not possible to speak of women’s political participation without including women in all their diversity. Among other measures and objectives, she proposed the establishment of partnerships; the elimination of all forms of political violence through the application of sanctions; the incorporation of care policies that would facilitate women’s participation; the encouragement by electoral institutions and political organizations of the strengthening of women’s leadership and capacities through training; and the guarantee of access to the necessary resources to participate under equal conditions.

105. The representative of Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad of Mexico welcomed the preparation of the document and called for the region to show leadership in the Commission on the Status of Women. She suggested including in the recommendations, in the section on violence against women in public and political life, a paragraph on strengthening institutional measures and normative frameworks to bar perpetrators from elected office and, in the section on financing, a paragraph on fostering countercyclical measures and international cooperation mechanisms to prevent women from continuing to suffer disproportionately from the effects of the crisis. She also noted the importance of the women ministers of the region making progress in the representation of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fifth session.

106. The representative of Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar a Domicilio y de Maquila (ATRAHDOM) of Guatemala said that the focus should be on the right to work and, in particular, on rights related to domestic work. She referred to the sixth Latin American meeting of domestic workers, which was already supported by ILO and UN-Women, and said that the meeting would take place in October 2021 and would address the impact of COVID-19, wages, access to care for caregivers, lack of social security and migration.

107. The representative of FUSA AC and Vecinas Feministas de la Argentina reiterated the importance of determining Latin American and Caribbean representation at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and of guaranteeing spaces for civil society participation in official delegations. The representative of Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM) of Argentina agreed with the previous speaker’s statement, said that the summary of the prior consultation with civil society would be distributed to the delegations and requested that the points of that consultation be considered for the statement of the ministers.

108. Next, the Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina delivered closing remarks, thanking those present for their participation and saying that note had been taken of the contributions to the document and of the importance of the contributions of civil society organizations and, in particular, of women's and feminist movements.

109. Within the framework of the regional consultation, the round table 'Parity in action from an intersectional perspective' was held, and was moderated by Nadine Gasman, President of the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico and Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants included Beatriz Argimón, Vice-President of Uruguay; Tamika Peart, Acting Director, Community Liaison Branch, Bureau of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport of Jamaica; María Soledad Cisternas, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility; Dora Virginia Alonzo Quijivix, Activist and Defender of Human Rights of Children, Adolescents, Youth, Women and Indigenous Peoples, and Rosa Campoalegre, Coordinator of the working group on Afrodescendancy and counterhegemonic proposals of the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO).

110. The President of INMUJERES of Mexico and Vice-Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean acknowledged that women in the region continued to be marginalized in the public sphere, as reflected in their low participation, especially at the local level, and the persistence of political violence against them. She stressed that harassment intensified when gender intersected with other factors, such as belonging to indigenous or Afrodescendent communities, age, living in rural areas or disability. The increase in women's participation had not necessarily meant greater participation by those who suffered the greatest inequalities. In Mexico, measures such as the *Paridad en todo* constitutional reform had been promoted, adopted in 2019 by the "Legislature of gender parity", which guaranteed women's participation in all decision-making spaces and ensured parity in all institutions, from the federal cabinet to the municipalities. Moreover, eight regulations had been adopted to combat political violence; the National Electoral Institute (INE) had adopted regulations for political parties to prevent, avoid and punish political violence; and the criteria for the selection of candidates had been reformed to include women in all their diversity. Finally, she said that women's political participation and parity would be central themes at the Generation Equality Forum, both in Mexico, from 29–31 March, and in Paris, from 30 June–2 July.

111. The Vice-President of Uruguay described the normative advances in Uruguay, as well as the link between the struggle against dictatorship and women's participation, and the slow process of women's return to parliament and the executive branch, while at the same time, women were gaining prominence in various social and cultural processes. She referred to the first quota law in the political arena, which had been passed in 2009, and said that the history of progress in Uruguay also showed what happened when women entered parliament and their participation became visible. The only path was the one that led to a parity law and, in that regard, she called on the entire region to push for its adoption, and recognized the economic independence of women as a fundamental pillar, which allowed them to change their lives and, therefore, society as a whole. She also appreciated Chile's initiative to create the regional partnership for the digitalization of women, as technology-related issues were another major challenge. She concluded with a reflection on the Comprehensive Law for Trans Persons, which reserved a place in the administration for them, recognizing their role in conveying the need for change in society. She admitted that there was still a long way to go to achieve the full implementation of the law, especially in the public administration, where compliance was imperative.

112. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility referred to the main challenges in the region regarding the inclusion of women with disabilities, and spoke about measures that could be taken by States to ensure the full realization of their rights. The first challenge was the lack of awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, despite the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. She gave as an example the lack of maternity support for women with disabilities or the discrimination faced by women with mental or intellectual disabilities. She stressed the importance of women with disabilities being able to access regional and global bodies, emphasizing the fact that women with disabilities and older women had had to struggle alone at the political level. Chile had achieved gender parity in the constituent process after much effort and she stressed the importance of having persons with disabilities as candidates. Lastly, she called on ministers of women's affairs and other authorities, and on international organizations, to shed light on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, and to ensure their presence in the Commission on the Status of Women and the Generation Equality Forum.

113. Dora Virginia Alonzo Quijivix, Activist and Defender of Human Rights of Children, Adolescents, Youth, Women and Indigenous Peoples, related some successful experiences, such as the creation of the Platform for Indigenous Women as an advisory body to the Office of the Vice-President and the Specific Cabinets of Economic Development and Social Development. That platform involved the political participation of 50 women from seven different generations and sought to create mechanisms for political and social dialogue at the highest level in State bodies to contribute to the development of indigenous women and peoples, and to the exercise of their human rights. She highlighted, among the achievements, technical proposals to the Vice-President and Congress to influence planning and budget processes, such as thematic budget classifiers or recommendations including the perspective of indigenous women for the Great National Crusade for Nutrition.

114. The second experience she referred to was the formation of the Guatemalan Parliament for Children and Adolescents, which represented the four national cultures and was defined as a space for participation which facilitated lobbying on issues such as child marriage, sexual and reproductive rights and the dissemination of information related to human rights in indigenous communities. Finally, she spoke of the support provided to indigenous organizations in terms of training in politics for indigenous women since 1999, which she described as a path towards democracy and multiculturalism that had contributed to the monitoring of electoral processes, through training for the social auditing of elections and the promotion of the participation of young people, especially women, and their right to decide. Leaving no one behind and fostering participation to ensure that the voices of women and young people were included in an intergenerational dialogue were fundamental. That implied that States had a duty to ensure access to health, education and protection, which were fundamental to participation, and to work towards the prevention of violence.

115. The Acting Director of the Community Liaison Branch of the Bureau of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport of Jamaica said that, according to an analysis conducted in August 2020, women's representation in Jamaica had reached 55%, compared to 35% in previous years. In July 2020, a law had been passed whereby the board of any public body was required to include a minimum of 30% women and had to respect diversity goals to create an egalitarian society. She also spoke about challenges such as the difficulty of developing studies that contributed to understanding gender gaps or the lack of funding for political campaigns. She recognized social networks, which had enabled women's empowerment and participation, as an area of emerging interest, and gave the example of a platform for women's political participation. Needs included subsidies for education to support women's economic autonomy and participation in decision-making spaces and the elimination of violence against women. She underscored the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to include diverse voices

in the Gender Advisory Council, a space to listen to different points of view, where rural women, indigenous women, young women and academics were represented. Finally, she reaffirmed the government's commitment to removing the structural barriers that discriminated against women, which had been exacerbated by the pandemic.

116. In the ensuing discussion, the Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women said that for democracy to be representative, it must ensure representation of women in all their diversity, emphasizing that that would give democratic systems greater legitimacy. She acknowledged the example of Uruguay, which had shown that when women were included in parliament, the legislative agenda incorporated their demands and needs. She also said that UN-Women had been supporting the participation of women in all their diversity in the many elections that were to take place in the region that year.

117. The Human Rights Secretary of Ecuador stressed that violence began long before women were on party lists. It was not enough to focus on parity, but also to consider the roles women played once they took office, as experience had shown that it was then that women who won elections faced discrimination. She highlighted the need to promote greater understanding among civil society organizations to provide more support to elected women, and a pact to eliminate political violence in spaces that were traditionally masculinized and therefore made it very difficult for women to fulfil their roles in a transformative way. Representative democracy, with the election of diverse women, had to go hand in hand with support for the agenda of women's organizations in order to bring about relevant change. She concluded by calling for the adoption of a law to punish political violence in political parties, which would represent a decisive step forward in the region.

118. The representative of Red de Mujeres Indígenas con Discapacidad joined the call to incorporate indigenous women's issues into the debate, as they faced a barrier in that they had few opportunities to speak about those issues in international forums. From her own experience, she noted the lack of technical and economic support for the participation of indigenous women with disabilities and spoke of the need to recognize the various intersections in cases where indigenous women, for example, were also migrants or migrants with disabilities. She appreciated that Mexico had adopted affirmative measures to promote the political participation of indigenous women, thanks to which she had won a council seat as the first indigenous woman with a disability. Finally, she requested additional support for participation in the international forums where English was the only working language.

119. The Minister for Women, Gender and Diversity of Argentina reaffirmed the importance of including the segment on parity from an intersectional perspective in the meeting. She recalled that, in the document presented at the meeting, it had been proposed that the indicators of political participation should be differentiated, since the number of indigenous women, older women, women with disabilities or transvestite women who had access to resources and decision-making spaces could not be seen if the focus was solely on parity. Those were the indicators that would show inequalities and their intersections, and thus shed light on the various inequalities. She said that, in order to achieve gender equality, it was necessary to overhaul development models not only with universal policies, but also with positive actions in favour of groups whose rights were particularly violated, and that that perspective had to be proposed and reiterated at the Commission on the Status of Women, in a context in which inequality had increased significantly because of the pandemic.

120. Next, the Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, read out the Declaration of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the National Machineries for the Advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.⁷

Other matters (agenda item 9)

121. The Minister on the Status of Women and Executive President of INAMU of Costa Rica congratulated the Chair of the Presiding Officers and the secretariat on the Declaration to be presented at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, describing the document as excellent. She then underscored the importance of developing a joint strategy with subnational and local governments, and highlighted Costa Rica's commitment to lead the coalition of feminist action for climate justice at the Generation Equality Forum. In that regard, at the following meetings of the Presiding Officers, special emphasis could be placed on gender and climate change. Costa Rica, which was the pro tempore Chair of the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs (COMMCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA), was also committed to sustainable recovery, the fight against climate change, health, food security, the promotion of women's rights, the participation of women of African descent and women's access to science, technology and digitization.

Adoption of agreements (agenda item 10)

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

123. The Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked the representatives for the various contributions that had enriched the initial proposal and would guide the work of the Presiding Officers in the following months. She highlighted the efforts made by the countries of the region to implement the Santiago Commitment in the context of the pandemic, considering it the framework for promoting transformative recovery with gender equality. She also said that the current situation had to be taken as an opportunity to ensure, through affirmative action, women's full participation in sectors of the economy that were strategic for transformative economic recovery with gender equality and, in particular, to promote recovery plans that strengthened the care economy as a dynamic sector of the economy as a whole. She reaffirmed the idea of promoting a regional partnership for the digitalization of women in Latin America and the Caribbean and requested ECLAC, in coordination with UN-Women and other agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to accompany the countries in the implementation of that initiative.

124. The representative of Nicaragua noted that there were some aspects of the Declaration that could be improved. The Secretary of ECLAC took note of her comments and suggested that she send a note outlining those points on the wording. He also said that the note sent by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had been passed on to the Chair and the possibility of allowing the examination of new proposals for the text had been submitted for consideration by the delegations, but they had decided by consensus not to allow it.

⁷ See annex 2.

Closing session

125. At the closing session, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the implementation of the Santiago Commitment was more necessary than ever, and that required strengthened cooperation and coordination. She underscored the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Regional Gender Agenda, and the partnership with UN-Women, which was a clear example of the reform of the United Nations system. In order to achieve recovery with equality, it was essential to foster political dialogue and cooperation, move towards transformative and sustainable recovery, promote digitization and strengthen the care economy. She stressed the importance of the regional partnership for the digitalization of women proposed during the meeting of the Presiding Officers, and confirmed the support and accompaniment of this initiative by ECLAC. The crisis was an opportunity to move towards a care society that placed the sustainability of life at the centre.

126. She then referred to Costa Rica's proposal on the establishment of a regional compact on care and to the comments made by the Caribbean countries on the responsibility of the private sector to create decent jobs, assume its tax burden and join the regional compact. She reaffirmed that ECLAC would continue to work on the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean. She also underscored the importance of financing the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, and of including and integrating women in trade. On climate change, she stressed that recovery had to be sustainable and that climate change adaptation, climate justice and the recognition of the contributions of indigenous, Afrodescendent and rural women were priorities. In concluding, she insisted on the importance of continuing to work for transformative recovery with equality.

127. The Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of UN-Women referred to the work done in preparation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Generation Equality Forum. She listed some achievements in the region, such as the progress in parity in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the constituent process in Chile. She expressed gratitude for the space offered by the Presiding Officers meeting to share experiences and learn. She also stressed the importance of the care economy and the care society, and the development of legal frameworks to create care systems and generate decent and formal jobs. The regional partnership for the digitalization of women proposed at the meeting was essential, as was increased investment in machineries for the advancement of women and civil society organizations, and she stressed the importance of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements. With regard to actions to combat the pandemic, she stressed the need to continue approving fiscal packages and macroeconomic measures. Finally, she spoke of the importance of continuing to promote women's leadership in electoral processes, along with the protocols of parity laws, and of fostering initiatives to ensure that funding included a gender perspective.

128. Gladys Acosta Vargas, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) said that CEDAW had grown thanks to the political momentum of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was a powerful instrument, which had paved the way for a new way of legislating on women's affairs. Many countries had ratified the Optional Protocol, and she called for strategic thinking about the cases to be brought before the Committee. The mandate to comply with the Convention, which had been ratified by 189 countries, applied not only to the executive branch, but also to the legislative and judicial branches, and to non-State actors, which had the same obligation to respect it. She announced that a general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls was being prepared, in which the contribution of Latin American and Caribbean countries would be crucial. Political participation and parity were key, and a deeper and more strategic approach was needed to accelerate the

slow pace of progress in that area. She expressed concern about women in rural areas and those deprived of their freedom, among others, and said that no one should be deprived of the protection of the Convention.

129. The Minister of Women's Affairs and Gender Equity of Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the use of technology and innovation to address violence, and the importance of fostering co-responsibility, mainstreaming gender issues into the response to COVID-19, promoting a reactivation inclusive of women and fostering inclusive trade. She also stressed the importance of women as protagonists in the digital revolution and gender and climate change issues, especially with regard to the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies. She highlighted the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Regional Fund in support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, Costa Rica's proposal to establish a regional compact on care, and the cross-cutting support for the creation of a regional partnership for the digitalization of women. In conclusion, she said it was important to continue to push for transformative initiatives in all spheres and at all levels of our societies (in trade, climate change, digitization or domestic and care work) to achieve sustainable development with gender equality.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

At their sixtieth meeting, the Presiding Officers of the 1 Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to:

1. *Recognize* that the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has had unprecedented effects on sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental—, leading to the sharpest contraction of economic activity in the region’s history, with a disproportionately heavy impact on women and girls that deepens the structural obstacles of gender inequality;

2. *Call for* COVID-19 response and recovery policies to incorporate a gender perspective, to include participation by women in their design and implementation and to help to overcome the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, exclusion and inequality that disproportionately affect women in all their diversity and are manifest in increased unemployment and poverty, as well as in the overburden of paid and unpaid domestic and care work, and which threaten to widening existing gaps and reverse progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Gender Agenda;

3. *Reaffirm* the commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming at the different levels of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with citizen participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

4. *Commend* the efforts made by the countries of the region to implement the Santiago Commitment and congratulate those that have implemented measures in synergy with this regional agreement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

5. *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 Santiago Commitment and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

6. *Call* on developed countries, the agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations, and other key stakeholders to provide financial resources and to cooperate on capacity-building, to accelerate implementation of the Santiago Commitment and the Montevideo Strategy, taking into account the specificities of least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

7. *Thank* the secretariat for its report on the activities carried out since the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular with regard to knowledge production, technical assistance for countries and efforts to implement the Santiago Commitment, and urge it to continue with this line of work in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women;

8. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Welcome* the launch of the COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, developed in conjunction with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region, particularly the focus on gender in the section “Measures and actions at the national level” of the Observatory, and urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue the tasks that ensure that this platform is constantly maintained and updated;

10. *Thank* the representatives and participants in the high-level panels on the autonomy of women in recovery with gender equality, the role of international trade recovery with gender equality and of climate change challenges for sustainable recovery with equality, and acknowledge that these panels are a regional forum for the exchange and development of proposals to overcome the pandemic and mitigate its effects through people-centred responses with a gender, human-rights-based and intersectional approach;

11. *Promote* a regional partnership for the digitalization of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Chile in its capacity as chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to close gender gaps in access to, skills development for and use of information and communications technologies by women and girls and to promote full participation by women in the digital economy, and request the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to support countries in implementing the initiative, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

12. *Acknowledge* the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements and organizations of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, rural women, youth, girls and adolescents, women with disabilities and women migrants, as well as human rights defenders and women in all their diversity, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations 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;

13. *Take note* of the report on the Regional Fund in Support of Women’s and Feminists Organizations and Movements, presented by the board of directors of the Fund, in which the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is designated the administrative body;

14. *Recommend* that the governments of the Latin America and the Caribbean and of other regions, developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders contribute financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Fund in Support of Women’s and Feminists Organizations and Movements;

15. *Thank* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for its presentation on the priority areas that will guide the development of the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025;

16. *Congratulate* the Peruvian sociologist and lawyer Gladys Acosta Vargas upon her appointment as Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for the period from January 2021 to December 2024 and support the commitment of the governments of the region to progress towards gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

17. *Welcome* the holding of the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, co-chaired by France and Mexico, to begin virtually from Mexico City on 29, 30 and 31 March and to continue in Paris in the second half of 2021, and call upon all the countries of the region to participate actively and with commitment in this process and firmly support participation by members of civil society;

18. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their efficient co-organization of the regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers;

19. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the success of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers and acknowledge the contributions of the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair, for the special regional consultation in preparation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of this meeting of the Presiding Officers;

20. *Welcome* the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

21. *Present* the declaration adopted at the special regional consultation and the agreements of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held in March 2021;

22. *Emphasize* that the current situation must be taken as an opportunity to ensure, through affirmative actions, women's full participation in sectors of the economy that are strategic for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and, in particular, to promote recovery plans that strengthen the care economy as a dynamic sector of the economy as a whole.

Annex 2

**DECLARATION BY MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES
OF NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**“WOMEN’S FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING
IN PUBLIC LIFE, AS WELL AS THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE, FOR ACHIEVING
GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS”**

LATIN AMERICAN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION

24 and 25 February 2021

We, the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened virtually in the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on 24 and 25 February 2021, at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, and which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 March 2021,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols, 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, especially No. 100, No. 156, No. 169, No. 189 and No. 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), 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), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and guarantee 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), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) (2014), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(2007), 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, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), 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 (2014), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), especially through Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”,

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 Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), and the Santiago Commitment (2020),

Considering that the crisis resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has a disproportionately high impact on women and girls in all their diversity, deepening the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination and exclusion and the structural challenges of gender inequality, including worsening barriers to their participation in public life and in decision-making, threatening the gains made over the past 25 years in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment and autonomy,

Recognizing the additional burden of care borne by women, which has increased in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and expressing our concern about the negative impact that this additional burden may have on women in terms of their opportunities for full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, especially for those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization,

Considering that both a secular State and the implementation of participatory forms of government are guarantees for the effective exercise of human rights and the consolidation of democracy, transparency and governance,

Considering also that funding for women's participation in public life is scarce, a situation that is exacerbated in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and stressing that new models of fund-raising and financing mechanisms need to be developed to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men to participate and be involved in decision-making in public life,

Recognizing the progress made in the region towards parity democracies, including the adoption of laws and public policies, the effective inclusion of women in the different branches and levels of the State, and the implementation of mechanisms to promote the participation of women in all their diversity from an intersectional perspective and to eradicate discrimination and violence against women in public life, we agree to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the

advancement of women and gender mainstreaming at the different levels of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with citizen participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and a gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

2. *Redouble* efforts and commitment to make gender parity a State policy and to ensure women's equal access to decision-making positions in all branches and areas of the State, including the judiciary, and in national, subnational and local governments, through legislative and electoral initiatives and measures to ensure parity representation in all areas and levels of political power;

3. *Promote* mechanisms for greater inclusion of women in all their diversity, as well as women's organizations, including civil society and women's experts and leaders, in crisis response and recovery, especially in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring their equal participation in advisory boards, standing committees and other decision-making and monitoring bodies or spaces, to ensure the incorporation of gender, human rights and intersectionality perspectives in the response to the health emergency and subsequent recovery;

4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to implement gender-sensitive countercyclical policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on the lives of women and girls and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in key sectors, including the care economy, as a condition for women's full and effective participation in the response to the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent recovery, as well as in public life and decision-making more broadly;

5. *Also reaffirm* our commitment to promote comprehensive care systems from a gender, human rights, intersectional and intercultural perspective that fosters co-responsibility between men and women and between the State, the market, families and the community, and that includes policies that are coordinated in relation to time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services to meet the different care needs of the population, as part of social protection systems;

6. *Promote* measures, including changes at the legislative level, affirmative policies, specific budget allocations and political training and education initiatives for leadership by women leadership in all their diversity, aimed at promoting gender parity, inclusion and ethnic and racial alternation in all branches of the State, in special and autonomous regimes, at the national, subnational and local levels, in private institutions and in the labour, trade union and academic spheres, in order to strengthen democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean, from an intersectional perspective;

7. *Strengthen* the effective implementation of statistical information systems with disaggregated data that support analyses from a gender perspective and with an intersectional approach, for the purpose of designing public policies for gender equality and measuring fulfilment of the commitments assumed by States to achieve parity;

8. *Emphasize* the importance of developing and consolidating permanent initiatives, regulations and inclusive electoral policies that lead organizations and political parties to mainstream the agendas of women in all their diversity and gender and human rights perspectives, especially with regard to their content, financing, actions and statutes, as well as the importance of ensuring the equal participation, empowerment, autonomy and leadership of women and of urging the development of internal protocols for action to prevent, address, punish and eliminate violence against women in political life;

9. *Strengthen* mechanisms for observing and monitoring electoral processes with a gender perspective as instruments for ensuring respect for women's political rights;

10. *Promote* concrete measures to improve transparency and guarantee equal access to public campaign financing through gender-sensitive political financing;

11. *Encourage* sustained efforts to guarantee, from an intersectional perspective, the protection of the human rights of women participating in political and public life, women human rights defenders and women journalists, and condemn political violence against women, including violence perpetrated against them when they enter decision-making spaces and violence manifested in the sphere of information and communication technologies and social networks;

12. *Reaffirm* our commitment to promote the enactment and implementation of legislation, multisectoral policies, comprehensive action plans and education and sensitization programmes, to prevent, address, punish and eliminate the different forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls in the private, public, political, economic, institutional and symbolic spheres, as prerogatives for the full and effective participation of women, in all their diversity, in public life;

13. *Promote* the elimination of legal and institutional obstacles in order to ensure women's effective access to prompt and expeditious justice, to end impunity, and to ensure reparation and essential services in cases of violence, especially in the case of sexual violence;

14. *Also promote* universal access to and financing for comprehensive, accessible, affordable and good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, as a measure to promote women's empowerment and access to public life;

15. *Further promote* the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights in relation to: comprehensive sexuality information and education; safe, good-quality abortion services, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation; contraception; integrated social health-care services; maternal mortality; sexual orientation and gender identity; universal and accessible services, disability and old age; eradication of child pregnancy; prevention of adolescent pregnancy and motherhood; sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, health emergencies; healthy maternity; and technological development; as well as different types of family in accordance with national legislation;

16. *Foster* measures to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and recovery, as established in Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

17. *Advance* in building a gender, intersectional, intercultural and rights perspective into national policies and budgeted programmes on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening women's participation and the inclusion of gender equality in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction;

18. *Formulate and implement* e-government policies with a gender, intersectionality and interculturality approach that increase the efficiency and quality of public services, access to information, transparency, the use of open data, citizen participation and accountability, and that ensure the confidentiality and protection of user data;

19. *Design and implement* specific programmes to close gender gaps in access, use and skills in the fields of science, technology and innovation and strengthen the capacities of women in all their diversity to participate in political and public life in order to allow their full integration into digital ecosystems;

20. *Recognize* the contribution of women's and feminist movements in the region to the strengthening of democracy, advances in gender equality, the development of institutions and the formulation and implementation of public policies for equality, and highlight the importance of increasing specific funds and the direct allocation of resources to women's organizations and feminist movements;

21. *Welcome* the holding of the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and co-chaired by Mexico and France, with the leadership and participation of civil society, as a global intersectoral and intergenerational gathering for gender equality, which will begin virtually in Mexico City on 29, 30 and 31 March and will continue in Paris in the second half of 2021, and urge all countries of the region to participate actively and with commitment in this process;

22. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their contribution to this regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

23. *Disseminate* this declaration among the ministries of foreign affairs of the governments of the region, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to the negotiation of the conclusions that will be adopted at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

24. *Request* the Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to convey this declaration, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fifth session;

25. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and commend the Government of Argentina and the Government of Mexico, in their capacity as Vice-Chairs, for their contributions in moderating the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixtieth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Annex 3

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

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- Paula Cecilia Merchán, Secretaria de Políticas de Igualdad y Diversidad, Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad
- Pilar Escalante, Subsecretaria de Políticas de Igualdad, Secretaría de Políticas de Igualdad y Diversidad, Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad
- María Fernanda Fernández Fernández, Directora de Promoción de la Igualdad en la Participación Política, Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad
- Edurne Cárdenas, Directora General de Relaciones Institucionales, Ministerio de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad
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- Natalia Segura Diez, Asesora
- Johanna González, Asesora
- Ana Sarrabayrouse, Directora de la Mujer y Asuntos de Género, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

- Florencia Riveros, Dirección de la Mujer y Asuntos de Género, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto
- Marina Quaranta, Dirección de la Mujer y Asuntos de Género, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto
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- Norma Sanchís, Presidenta, Asociación Lola Mora, email: normasanchis@gmail.com
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Representante/Representative:

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BARBADOS

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BELICE/BELIZE

Representante/Representative:

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BOLIVIA (ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE)/BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Representante/Representative:

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- Claudia Stacy Peña Claros, Directora General de Prevención y Eliminación de Toda Forma de Violencia de Género y Generacional
- Claudia Córdoba Gil, Técnica en la Temática de Género

BRASIL/BRAZILRepresentante/Representative:

- Teresinha de Almeida Ramos Neves, Directora, Departamento de Promoción de la Dignidad de la Mujer, Secretaría Nacional de Políticas para las Mujeres, Ministerio de la Mujer, la Familia y los Derechos Humanos

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Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

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ISLAS CAIMÁN/CAYMAN ISLANDSRepresentante/Representatives:

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ISLAS TURCAS Y CAICOS/TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDSRepresentante/Representative:

- Wesley V. Clerveaux, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture, Social and Library Services, email: wvclerveaux@gov.tc

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carolyn Dickenson, Director of Gender Affairs, email: cdickenson@gov.tc

ISLAS VÍRGENES BRITÁNICAS/BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDSRepresentante/Representative:

- Carvin Malone, Minister for Health and Social Development, email: ministryofhealth@gov.vg

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Carolyn O'Neal-Morton, Permanent Secretary, Premier's Office, email: coneal-morton@gov.vg
- Tasha Bertie, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Development, email: tbertie@gov.vg
- Benito Wheatley, Special Envoy of the Minister, email: benitowheatley@gmail.com
- Najan Christopher, Director, International Affairs Secretariat, email: nachristopher@gov.vg
- Xyrah Wheatley, Programme Officer, email: x.wheatley@hotmail.com
- Tracy Bradshaw, Director, British Virgin Islands Office, email: tbradshaw@bvi.org.uk
- Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director, British Virgin Islands Office, email: sflax@bvi.org.uk
- Dwynel Davis, Assistant Secretary for External Affairs, email: dwdavis@gov.vg

MONTSERRATRepresentante/Representative:

- Veronica Dorsette-Hector, Parliamentary Secretary, email: hectorv@gov.ms

PUERTO RICORepresentante/Representative:

- Lersy G. Boria Vizcarrondo, Procuradora de las Mujeres, email: lboria@mujer.pr.gov

Miembro de la delegación/Delegation member:

- Madeline Bermúdez, Procuradora Auxiliar, Oficina de la Procuradora de las Mujeres, email: mbermudez@mujer.pr.gov

SAN MARTÍN/SINT MAARTEENRepresentante/Representative:

- Tjashana Honore, Social Worker, Community Development, Family and Humanitarian Affairs, email: tjashana.honore@sintmaartengov.org

**C. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat**

Enviada Especial del Secretario General para la Discapacidad/Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility

- María Soledad Cisternas, email: maria.cisternasreyes@un.org

Coordinadores Residentes/Resident Coordinators

- Marina Walter, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, email: marina.walter@un.org
- Rebeca Arias, Guatemala, email: rebeca.ariasflores@un.org
- Alice Shackelford, Honduras, email: alice.shackelford@un.org
- Mireia Villar, Uruguay, email: mireia.villarforner@un.org

Oficina de Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios (OCHA)/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- Rogerio Mobilia Silva, Jefe de Oficina Interino, Panamá, email: silvar@un.org
- Amaila López, Oficial de Asuntos Humanitarios y Punto Focal de Género, Panamá, email: lopez20@un.org

Oficina de Coordinación del Desarrollo (OCD)/Development Coordination Office

- Christian Salazar Volkman, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: christian.salazarvolkmann@un.org

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Pedro Vera Pineda, Asesor Regional sobre Derechos de las Mujeres y Cuestiones de Género, email: pvera-pineda@ohchr.org

**D. Organismos, fondos y programas de las Naciones Unidas/
United Nations agencies, funds and programmes**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- María-Noel Vaeza, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe, email: nadiuska.castillo@unwomen
- Cecilia Alemany, Directora Regional Adjunta, Uruguay, email: cecilia.alemany@unwomen.org

- Anastasia Divinskaya, Representante, Brasil, email: anastasia.divinskaya@unwomen.org
- Belén Sanz, Representante, México, email: astrid.rojas@unwomen.org
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- Magdalena Furtado, Representante, Uruguay, email: magdalena.furtado@unwomen.org
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- Adriana Quiñones, Representante de País, Guatemala, email: adriana.quinones@unwomen.org
- Nidya Pesantez, Representante a.i., Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, email: nidya.pesantez@unwomen.org
- María Inés Salamanca, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Specialist; Coordinator, Chile, email: maria.salamanca@unwomen.org
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- Patricia Fernández-Pacheco Estradao, Representante de País a.i., Colombia, email: patricia.pacheco@unwomen.org
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- Gabriela Mata Marín, Especialista Nacional, Costa Rica, email: gabriela.matamarin@unwomen.org
- Beatriz García, Consultora, Panamá, email: beatriz.garcia@unwomen.org
- Angélica Ramírez Dávila, Project Manager, México, email: angelica.ramirez@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- Jean Gough, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: jgough@unicef.org
- Shelly Abdool, Asesora Regional de Género, email: sabdool@unicef.org
- Claudio Santibañez, Asesor Regional de Alianzas con el Sector Público, email: csantibanez@unicef.org
- Ivonne Urriola Pérez, Oficial de Género y Desarrollo, Panamá, email: iurriolaperez@unicef.org

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

- Harold Robinson, Director Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: hrobinson@unfpa.org
- Neus Bernabeu, Asesora Regional Género y Juventud, Panamá, email: bernabeu@unfpa.org
- Alejandra Alzérreca, Especialista en Género y Violencia basada en Género, email: alzerreca@unfpa.org

**Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

- José Xavier Samaniego Egas, Director Regional, Panamá, email: samanieg@unhcr.org
- Omayra Blanco, Asociada de Soporte Ejecutivo, Panamá, email: blanco@unhcr.org
- María Cecilia López, Public Affairs Officer, Panamá, email: lopezm@unhcr.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Servicios para Proyectos (UNOPS)/United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

- María Regina Cafferata, Especialista en Género, Diversidad e Inclusión, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: mariarc@unops.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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- Paola Vilca, Comunicaciones, Chile, email: paola.vilca@undp.org
- Marta Álvarez González, Analista de Programas, Panamá, email: marta.alvarez@undp.org
- Guillermina Martín, Team Leader Gender Area, Panamá, email: guillermina.martin@undp.org
- Marcela Ríos, Representante Residente Auxiliar, Chile, email: marcela.rios@undp.org
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- Carmen Vallejo, Especialista en Género, Paraguay, email: carmen.vallejo@undp.org
- Diego Borisonik, Técnico Profesional, Argentina, email: diego.borisonik@undp.org
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- Diana Rodríguez Uribe, Punto Focal de Género, Colombia, email: diana.rodriguez.uribe@undp.org

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Elena Ganan, Regional Gender Advisor, Panamá, email: elena.ganan@wfp.org

**E. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- María Arteta, Especialista de Género y No Discriminación, Equipo de Apoyo Técnico sobre Trabajo Decente, Oficina para América Central, Haití, Panamá y República Dominicana, email: arteta@ilo.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

- Claudia Brito Bruno, Oficial de Políticas, Experta en Género y Sistemas Sociales e Institucionales, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, email: claudia.brito@fao.org
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- Fabiana Pierre, Punto Focal de Género, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe
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- María Agustina Rayes, Pasante para la Transversalización de Género en América Latina y el Caribe, Chile, email: maria.rayes@fao.org

**Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

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Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- Anna Coates, Chief, Equity, Gender, and Cultural Diversity, email: coatesa@paho.org

Organización de Aviación Civil Internacional (OACI)/International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

- Pablo Lampariello, Oficial de Género, Oficina Regional Sudamericana, Perú, email: plampariello@icao.int
- Verónica Chávez, Technical Assistance Officer, Oficina Regional Sudamericana, Perú, email: vchavez@icao.int

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

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- Caroline Bidault, Country Director for Colombia, Ecuador and Gender Focal Point for the Latin America and the Caribbean Division, email: c.bidault@ifad.org
- Andrijana Nestorovic Strezov, Gender and Social Inclusion Analyst, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division, email: a.nestorovicstrezov@ifad.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- Barbara Boreta, Oficial de Programas, División de Coordinación Regional de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, email: b.boreta@unido.org
- Cecilia Ugaz Estrada, Asesor en Jefe, Oficina del Director General, email: c.ugazestrada@unido.org

**F. Organizaciones intergubernamentales
Intergovernmental organizations**

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

- Hilary Brown, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat, email: hilary.brown@Caricom.org

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)/Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)

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- Ana Silvia Monzón, Profesora e Investigadora, Guatemala, email: cefem.ecp@gmail.com
- Walda Barrios-Klee, Coordinadora, Programa Estudios de Género y Femicidios, Guatemala, email: waldabarriosklee@yahoo.com

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

- Jorge Hernán Chiriboga Pareja, Representante en Chile, email: hernan.chiriboga@iica.int

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Marcelo Pisani, Director Regional para América del Sur, email: mpisani@iom.int
- Alba Goycochea, Punto Focal de Género Regional, Argentina, email: agoycochea@iom.int
- Ana Pineda Campos, Asistente Senior de Protección y Asistencia, Costa Rica, email: apicado@iom.int
- Rosilyne Borland, Especialista Regional de Protección y Asistencia a Migrantes, Oficina Regional para Centroamérica, Norteamérica y el Caribe, Costa Rica, email: rborland@iom.int

- Elizabeth Membreño, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Nicaragua, email: emembreño@iom.int
- Carmen Paola Zepeda, Coordinadora Regional, Proyecto Mujeres Migrantes, Costa Rica, email: czepeda@iom.int

ParlAmericas

- Lisane Thirsk, Deputy Director, Gender Equality and Communications, email: lisane.thirsk@parlamericas.org

Unión Europea/European Union

- Leticia Benedet, Experta en el Área de Políticas de Igualdad de Género, EUROsociAL, Uruguay, email: letibene@gmail.com
- Ana Pérez, Coordinadora, Área de Políticas de Igualdad de Género, EUROsociAL, Francia, email: ana.perez@expertisefrance.fr

G. Panelistas Panellists

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
- María-Noel Vaeza, Directora Regional para las Américas y el Caribe de la Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)
- Mónica Zalaquett, Ministra de la Mujer y la Equidad de Género de Chile, en su calidad de Presidenta de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe
- Andrés Allamand, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile
- Epsy Campbell, Vicepresidenta de Costa Rica
- Janey Joseph, Directora de Relaciones de Género del Ministerio de Educación, Innovación, Relaciones de Género y Desarrollo Sostenible de Santa Lucía
- Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, Investigadora del Centro Interdisciplinario para el Estudio de Políticas Públicas (CIEPP) e integrante del Comité Ejecutivo de Mujeres por un Desarrollo Alternativo para una Nueva Era (DAWN)
- Mario Castillo, Director de la División de Comercio Internacional e Integración de la CEPAL
- María Alejandra Muñoz, Vicepresidenta de la República del Ecuador
- Erika Mouynes, Ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Panamá
- Marsha K. Caddle, Ministra de Asuntos Económicos e Inversión de Barbados
- Carolina Valdivia, Subsecretaria de Relaciones Exteriores del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile
- Mariama Williams, especialista en género y comercio
- Ana Güezmes, Directora de la División de Asuntos de Género de la CEPAL
- Delphine O, Embajadora de Francia y Secretaria General del Foro Generación Igualdad (por video)
- Marta Lucía Ramírez, Vicepresidenta de Colombia (por video)
- Parnel Charles Jr., Ministro de Vivienda, Renovación Urbana, Medio Ambiente y Cambio Climático de Jamaica
- Marcela Guerrero, Ministra de la Condición de la Mujer y Presidenta Ejecutiva del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INAMU) de Costa Rica
- Lorena Aguilar, especialista en género y cambio climático
- Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Ministra de las Mujeres, Géneros y Diversidad de la Argentina, en su calidad de Vicepresidenta de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe
- Beatriz Llanos, Doctora en Gobierno y Administración Pública

- Nadine Gasman, Presidenta del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (INMUJERES) de México
- Beatriz Argimón, Vicepresidenta del Uruguay
- Tamika Peart, Directora Interina de la División de Enlace Comunitario de la Oficina de Asuntos de Género del Ministerio de Cultura, Género, Entretenimiento y Deporte de Jamaica
- María Soledad Cisternas, Enviada Especial del Secretario General sobre la Discapacidad y la Accesibilidad
- Dora Virginia Alonzo Quijivix, Activista y Defensora de los Derechos Humanos de la Niñez, Adolescencia, Juventudes, Mujeres y Pueblos Indígenas
- Rosa Campoalegre, Coordinadora del grupo de trabajo Afrodescendencia y Propuestas Contrahegemónicas, del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO)
- Gladys Acosta Vargas, Presidenta del Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer (CEDAW)

H. Organizaciones no gubernamentales/ Non-governmental organizations

Agenda Política Mujeres en la Diversidad (APMD)

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Agrupación Mapuche Nagche “We Xayenko”

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Aquelarre RD

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Asociación Afroamérica XXI Guatemala

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Asociación Argentina de Sexología y Educación Sexual

- Amelia Sofia Ganem, Docente Tallerista, Argentina, email: ameliasofiaganem@gmail.com

Asociación Artístico-Cultural Las Poderosas - Teatro

- Lesbia Elizabeth Téllez Gamarro, Coordinadora y Asesora, Grupo de Sociedad Civil de ONU-Mujeres Guatemala, email: poderosasluchadoras@gmail.com

Asociación Civil Andinas

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Asociación Civil de Planificación Familiar (PLAFAM)

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Asociación Civil Foro de Mujeres

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Asociación Civil Razonar

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Asociación de Empleadas de Hogar de Murcia

- Sara María Cutiopala Alulema, Vicepresidenta, España, email: sara.cutiopala@gmail.com

Asociación de Funcionarios y Empleados de la Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB) (Public Services International)

- Angélica Ordoñez, Delegada, Ecuador, email: angelifras@gmail.com

Asociación de Mujeres en Cooperación para el Desarrollo (AMUCOODE)

- Julia Herrera Cevallos, Coordinadora Directora, Costa Rica, email: juliaherrera@yahoo.com

Asociación de Mujeres GENERANDO (ASOGEN)

- Luna Danessa, Directora General, Guatemala, email: direccion@asogen.org
- Ingrid Cálvez, Incidencia Política, Guatemala, email: incidenciaasogen@gmail.com

Asociación de Mujeres Mayas Majawil Q'ij

- Bonifacia García Ramírez, Promotora de Derechos Humanos, Guatemala, email: majawil@gmail.com

Asociación del Personal de la Universidad de Buenos Aires

- Gabriela Figueroa, Secretaria Política, Responsable del Espacio de Derechos Humanos y Género, email: figueroa_g2002@yahoo.com.ar

Asociación del Personal de los Organismos de Control (APOC)

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Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar a Domicilio y de Maquila (ATRAHDOM)

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Asociación Fundación Justicia y Género Paraguay Cono Sur

- Gricelda Cañete Ribeiro, Tesorera, Paraguay, email: asesorajurid@gmail.com

Asociación Huehueteca Ixmucané

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