



XII 
Regional Conference
ON WOMEN
in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Twelfth session of the Regional Conference on
Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santo Domingo, 15-18 October 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Mandate and functions

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and is convened in compliance with the mandates contained in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977). The Conference meets periodically at intervals of no more than three years. In accordance with the Plan of Action and the agreements adopted by Governments, it fulfils the following functions:

- To determine regional and subregional needs for technical assistance and give support to all United Nations bodies operating in the region to enable them to meet those needs;
- To put forward recommendations to Governments and to ECLAC itself based on studies carried out by the secretariat on the most feasible way of implementing the agreements adopted by United Nations regional conferences;
- To review and appraise periodically the activities of ECLAC and other United Nations bodies;
- To evaluate periodically the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean 1995-2001;
- To provide a forum for the exchange of information to facilitate mutual coordination and support for programmes designed to promote the integration of women and gender-based analysis into the economic and social development process at various levels and permit the countries in the region to share relevant experience.

2. Purposes of the session

The twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean also has the function of reviewing the implementation of the international commitments undertaken in the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the sixth session of the Regional Conference in 1994 and reaffirmed in the Mexico City Consensus in 2004, in the Quito Consensus in 2007, and in the Brasilia Consensus in 2010, and of ratifying regional consensus adopted during previous conferences on women in Latin America and the Caribbean. To that end, the Conference will undertake to examine the progress made by the region and the challenges that remain for achieving gender equality, with an emphasis on women's autonomy in the digital economy and the information society.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

The delegations will elect the Presiding Officers of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, who will serve as such until new Presiding Officers are chosen at the following session.

In accordance with the criteria established by the Presiding Officers, every effort will be made to ensure that the new Presiding Officers are chosen with due regard for the principles of adequate geographical distribution and rotation.

The Presiding Officers consider it necessary to refer to the subject of regular attendance at meetings as “a commitment that countries must make” if they are to serve on that body.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegations will have before them for consideration and adoption the following provisional agenda:¹

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Activities carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System since the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Presentation of the position paper *Women in the digital economy: Breaking through the equality threshold*.
5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
6. Other matters.

The Conference will organize its work in accordance with the proposal made by the secretariat and adopted at the forty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers.² The programme of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference, which lasts for four days, includes a day-long plenary session encompassing the election of the Presiding Officers, the opening ceremony of the session, the presentation of the position paper, the reading of the document submitted by civil society, and a high-level panel.

Two days will then be devoted to eight simultaneous panels and a round table entitled “Beijing+20: outlook and challenges”, as agreed at the forty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers.³ The fourth day will be given over to plenary debate and adoption of the Santo Domingo Consensus.

¹ LC/L.3658(CRM.12/1).

² ECLAC, *Report of the forty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Santiago, 7-8 November 2012 (LC/L.3578), Santiago, Chile, 2012, agreement 5.

³ *Ibid.*, agreement 6.

3. Activities carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System since the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Chair of the Presiding Officers will report to participants on the virtual forums held in 2013, at which the national reports on actions undertaken in fulfilment of the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, were submitted. The report of the ECLAC secretariat and the reports of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System will also be presented.

Working document:

- Mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development: activities of the ECLAC secretariat 2010-2013 (LC/L.3676(CRM.12/5))

In fulfilment of the task entrusted to it by the forty-seven meeting of the Presiding Officers,⁴ the secretariat will present a proposal regarding national reports on follow-up activities to the consensus adopted by the Regional Conferences on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Presentation of the position document *Women in the digital economy: Breaking through the equality threshold*

The secretariat will present the position document *Women in the digital economy: Breaking through the equality threshold*, in accordance with the theme agreed upon at the forty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers,⁵ and with the annotated index of the document, which was submitted to the Presiding Officers for consideration in March 2012. As highlighted by the paper, prepared at ECLAC by the Division for Gender Affairs in collaboration with the Division of Production, Productivity and Management, the new challenges presented by the digital revolution and the information and knowledge society are being intensely debated and alternative development models are emerging. Some of these proposals aim to promote a more just and equitable distribution of benefits and opportunities and to avoid the risk that gaps will fail to close and perhaps even widen further. This is a crucial time, when Governments, businesses and citizens must reflect and take action in order to foster new approaches to development. Making progress towards an equitable development model based on employment, economic productivity, social welfare and environmental sustainability involves identifying key factors such as education, science and technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, care systems, the role of territories and cultural diversity.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) provide essential support across all economic, political, cultural and social activity. What is more, they form their own production sector. They are therefore a very useful tool in the drive to achieve equality, and can also help reduce gender inequities and analyse any possible interaction between social gaps and the gender-based digital divide. If women are to enjoy opportunities in a context of extremely rapid technological development, they must have access to ICTs, although this alone will not suffice.

⁴ ECLAC, *Report of the forty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Panama, 3-4 May 2012 (LC/L.3517), Santiago, Chile, 2012, agreement 11.

⁵ ECLAC, *Report of the forty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Santiago, 28-30 November 2011 (LC/L.3461), Santiago, Chile, 2011, agreement 2.

The Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean analysed and commented on the position paper during three preparatory meetings, as agreed at the forty-eighth meeting of the Presiding Officers.⁶

Working documents:

- Women in the digital economy: Breaking through the equality threshold (LC/L.3666(CRM.12/3))
- Women in the digital economy: Breaking through the equality threshold. Summary (LC/L.3675(CRM.12/4))

The delegations will discuss the issues of the twelfth session of the Conference in the framework of a high-level round table and eight panels, each addressing a main theme of the position paper. The debate on each of the panels will open with presentations by special guests representing the ICT sector, those engaged in the formulation of public policies on equality and the administration of justice, decision-makers, civil society and academia.

5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference

The proposed agreements that will be submitted to the Conference for consideration will be aimed at adoption of the Santo Domingo Consensus.

6. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the delegations may consider any other matter they deem appropriate.

⁶ Agreement 12.