

UN Women Americas and the Caribbean Results Achieved in 2014



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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality

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INTRODUCTION

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) a strong women's movement and high level government commitments have contributed to favorable legislative frameworks for gender equality. Engagement in the region around global intergovernmental processes, such as the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20) and the negotiation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, has led to strong regional calls for a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The political and social climate has generally been favorable with significant dialogue, advocacy and coordination seen between States, civil society and the United Nations System.

However, widespread gaps in implementation impede the impact of legislation for gender equality and insufficient national monitoring and evaluation frameworks are a barrier to ensuring accountability. Despite recent advances in terms of economic growth, social investment, and stable democratic systems, the region continues to grapple with extremely high levels of income inequality, crime and violence. Cultural attitudes and norms related to traditional gender roles and stereotypes continue to present challenges to the achievement of women's rights and significant gender inequalities are compounded by other forms of inequality based upon race, ethnicity, geographic location, income, age, disability, HIV status and sexual orientation.

UN Women has established a Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean based in Panama, along with nine Country offices,¹ one multi-country office for the Caribbean sub-region based in Barbados, and the UN Women Global Training Centre in the Dominican Republic. UN Women also maintains a programme presence in a number of other countries with cost sharing initiatives. In 2014, the overall budget for UN Women in the region was approximately US\$ 28.7 million, with almost US\$ 9.8 million in cost-sharing funds, including Trust Funds.

The Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assessment of UN

Women has determined that *"the organization is pursuing results that are relevant to its mandate and pertinent at global and national levels. The rationale for the creation of UN Women – the need for leadership on gender equality at a global level- remains valid."*

In the LAC region, UN Women has advanced women's rights through a virtuous cycle of ensuring that transformative normative agreements and commitments that address the structural impediments to the fulfilment of women's rights are agreed and operational work at country levels helps implement these commitments. In particular, significant results have been achieved in the priority areas of work in the region: **political participation and leadership, economic empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls. Issues related to women, peace and security** have also been a priority in relevant countries. As key to improving accountability for follow through on commitments to gender equality, UN Women has engaged in crosscutting work to promote **civil society leadership and strengthen gender statistics and gender sensitive planning**. It has also led efforts to coordinate and ensure coherence in the responses of the UN system to the needs of women and girls at regional and country levels.

This report aims to highlight some of the key results from 2014 and provide a snapshot of UN Women's contributions towards achieving full equality and human rights for all women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic (also UN Women Training Centre), Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay

Noteworthy Achievements 2014



2 At the Special Session on Beijing+20 in Latin America and the Caribbean



1 IMPROVING GOALS AND STANDARDS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

UN Women has a powerful mandate that combines normative and operational functions. On the one hand, UN Women supports inter-governmental bodies at global and regional levels in the formulation of policies, norms and standards.

Photo: UN Women/Mario Ruiz

From left to right, Claudia Pascual Grau, Minister of Women's Affairs of Chile; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women; and Luiza Carvalho, Regional Director of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean, addressing the civil society during the high-level event on "Women in power and decision-making: Building a different world," in Santiago, Chile on April 2015.

On the other, UN Women supports Member States to implement these standards, by providing technical and financial support and forging effective partnerships. UN Women advocates for a transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment as part of the new development agenda (proposed SDG 5) as well as robust mainstreaming of gender considerations across all parts of the new development framework. This position has been widely echoed by governmental delegates and civil society representatives at major global and regional inter-governmental processes, including *inter alia* the 58th and 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the XII Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean and the regional Special Session on Beijing+20.

UN Women's continued support for capacity development, advocacy and alliance building with States (including national women's machineries), women's organizations and key UN agencies has been pivotal in conveying the voices of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for global inter-governmental processes, including Beijing+20 and the negotiation of the SDGs.

The first quarter of 2014 was marked by the Regional Consultation with National Women's Machineries in preparation for CSW 58, which took place in **Mexico** in March 2014 with the priority theme of assessing key progress and challenges for women and girls in

implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The consultation was convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) with support from UN Women. As a result of the consultation, the Mexico Declaration was unanimously adopted by States expressly acknowledging *inter alia* the need for a transformative and comprehensive goal with clear targets and indicators to ensure gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the Post 2015 development framework.

The proceedings were also influenced by the civil society regional assessment on progress and challenges in the implementation of the MDGs. The assessment identified specific recommendations from the LAC region and eight out of ten were included in the CSW 58 agreed conclusions adopted by Member States at the global session.

UN Women supported a civil society assessment on progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to inform the LAC Special Session on Beijing+ 20. The Special Session took place in Santiago de Chile in November, within the framework of the 51st Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean. The session was jointly convened and organized by UN Women's Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Special Session on Beijing+ 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean

Twenty One countries unanimously reaffirmed the region's commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action, and the goal to remove barriers that prevent women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life. In the Outcome Statement, the region's governments called for a specific target on gender equality in the post 2015 development agenda as well as mainstreaming of gender and human rights in all the objectives, targets and indicators.

During the Special Session, Ministers and representatives from civil society and national women's organizations recognized the progress made towards implementing the platform for action in the past 20 years as well as the remaining gaps. They emphasized that the human rights of women and girls are essential to eradicate poverty and attain higher standards of equality, peace and security. They also recognized the post 2015 development agenda as a strategic opportunity to address gender equality and empower women and reaffirmed the importance of gender statistics and indicators for tracking and monitoring progress. The Outcome Statement underscores the importance of adequate resources to develop and implement gender equality policies for post 2015 and calls for ECLAC, UN Women and the region's governments to establish a technical working group to address gender-sensitive budgeting and financing.

During 2014, UN Women supported preparations for the high-level global event on “Women in power and decision-making: Building a different world,” which was held in **Santiago de Chile** in February 2015. More than 300 global women leaders gathered to take part in the conference with the aim of galvanizing political support to achieve gender equality and honor commitments made by 189 governments to uphold the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The event was inaugurated by the President of Chile –and founding Executive Director of UN Women– Michelle Bachelet, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and resulted in a strong call to governments and the private sector to take stronger measures to close

the gap of inequalities in order to achieve the goals established 20 years ago in Beijing.³

Consistent data and statistics on gender equality are essential to the development and implementation of the SDGs. In November, **Mexico** celebrated fifteen years of regional progress and leadership on gender statistics with the 15th International Meeting on Gender Statistics. This meeting was organized by INEGI⁴ and INMUJERES of Mexico, ECLAC and UN Women in the framework of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the ECLAC Statistical Conference of the Americas. Through this meeting, UN Women supports the generation of methodological and technical tools and fosters south-south cooperation for improved gender statistics.

3 <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/02/ed-in-chile#sthash.gwx1XsK9.dpuf>

4 National Institute of Statistics and Geography



2

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The LAC region is experiencing an historic moment with a gradual increase in women's participation in areas of political decision-making.

Photo: Cotidiano Mujer Uruguay
Women for parity democracy at Bella Unión, Uruguay

Many countries have instituted constitutional reforms and progressive electoral mechanisms, which have allowed some women to reach the highest leadership positions. The region currently has the highest rate in the world of women parliamentarians with five women leading the Executive Branches⁵ and undeniable gains in terms of legal and institutional progress.

National parliaments in the region have—on average—a rate of 26.5⁶ per cent women, compared to the global average of 22.1 per cent. Five countries have adopted legislation on parity: **Bolivia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua** and **México**. In **Ecuador, Nicaragua** and **Bolivia** women parliamentarians have surpassed 40 per cent of the total seats, while **Argentina, Costa Rica** and **México** have more than 30 per cent. However,

progress is not homogeneous and large disparities exist between countries and between population groups, and local level participation tends to be low.

UN Women's Regional Thematic Evaluation on the political participation of women (2011-2014) demonstrated that the role and contribution of UN Women in political participation is strongest in terms of strengthening the leadership of women; promoting parity democracy; and combating discrimination, gender stereotypes and violence. Substantial progress has been made with ensuring consistency of approaches with national priorities, coordination with the entities of legislative and electoral institutions of the countries, partnering with civil society and coordination with the United Nations System.

Legislative Election Results 2014 in Latin America and the Caribbean⁷

Country	House	Percentage of Women prior to 2014 elections (as of 12-1-13)	Percentage of Women after 2014 elections (as of 2-1-15)	Increase/Decrease
Bolivia	Lower House	25.4%	53.1%	+27.7%
	Upper House	47.2%	47.2%	No change
Colombia	Lower House	12.1%	19.9%	+7.8%
	Upper House	16.0%	22.5%	+6.5%
Dominica	Single House	12.5%	21.9%	+9.4%
		-	-	-
Panama	Single House	8.5%	19.3%	+10.8%
		-	-	-

Source: Inter-parliamentary Union Statistical Archive: Women in Politics, December 1st 2013 and February 1st 2015

Promoting parity representation: from affirmative action measures to parity

Reaching parity in Bolivia

Bolivia is only the **second country in the world** to achieve parity in parliamentary political representation. This result is the culmination of many years' effort on behalf of the women's movement which brought about significant changes in the electoral laws passed in 2010. UN Women supported the creation of strategic alliances and educated female leaders and potential candidates within state institutions, political parties and local political organizations about the electoral laws that favour parity and alternation as well as Law 243 against political harassment and violence. UN Women also worked with these women to develop and implement "critical pathways" to achieve democratic parity. UN Women supported advocacy throughout the process and worked with political parties and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal at the time when lists of candidates were being formed for the 2014 National Election. Based on the Constitution and the electoral laws, the Supreme Electoral Court obliged all parties running for elections to have full gender balance among candidates.

5 Dilma Rousseff in Brazil, Cristina Fernandez in Argentina, Portia Simpson-Miller in Jamaica, Kamla Persad-Bissessar in Trinidad and Tobago and Michelle Bachelet in Chile

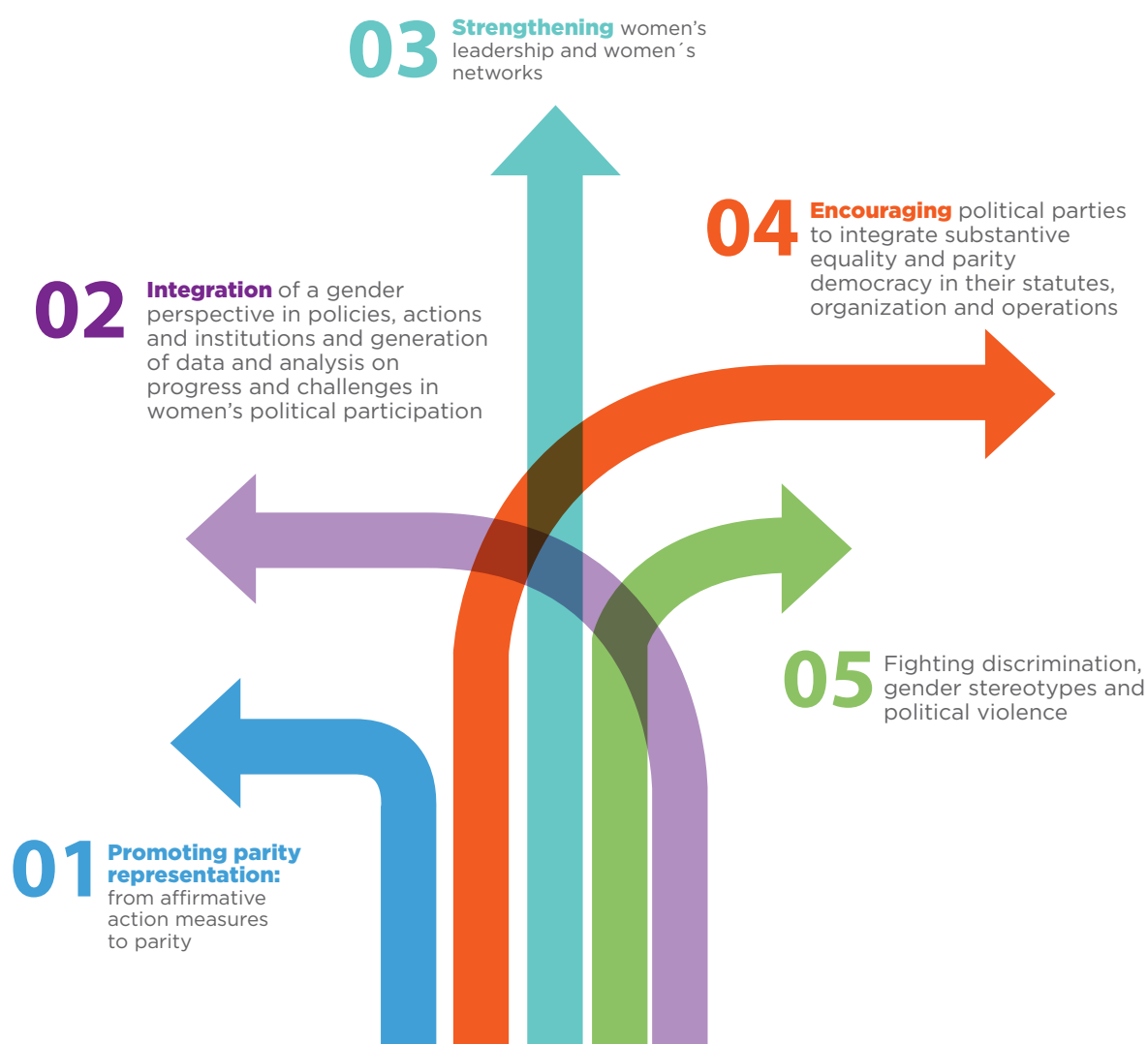
6 IPU March 2015

7 In countries where UN Women provided some type of support. UN Women also supported election processes in Brazil and Uruguay and is awaiting confirmation of results.

In order to support and monitor progress towards parity democracy in the region through sharing of information, experiences and tools, UN Women has been working with the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) to establish a common framework for action. In December 2014, the “Meeting of Parliamentarians on Women and Parity Democracy” took place in Panama, organized by UN Women,

Parlatino and the Panamanian Network of Women Politicians. During the meeting the parliamentarians approved a landmark Declaration on Parity Democracy and issued a set of recommendations based on the tenets of UN Women’s guide *Political Empowerment of Women: Framework for Strategic Action in Latin America and the Caribbean (2014-2017)*.

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS FOR ACHIEVING DEMOCRATIC PARITY RECOMMENDED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT (PARLATINO) AND UN WOMEN



Countries in the region continue to review and improve their legislation in relation to women's political participation, including by improving quota systems and supporting parity. UN Women's support for these processes includes advocacy, technical assistance, generation of knowledge and analysis. In 2014, UN Women supported institution and implementation of legislative measures towards achieving parity in Bolivia, Brazil, **Guatemala** and **Mexico**.

In **Brazil**, the quota law of 30 per cent was complied with for the first time in a general election and increased the number of female candidates by more than 60 per cent. The increase was in the number of female candidates for all available positions (representative, senator, state governor and president) in relation to the 2010 elections. In 2010, there were 5,056 female candidates. In 2014, the number increased to 8,120.⁸ In addition, UN Women supported women's organizations to include gender parity in the popular plebiscite for political reform which took place in September. During the plebiscite, 7.8 million Brazilians voted to reform the political system. If the reform process moves forward and a constitutional assembly is established, the popular proposal includes a provision for gender parity.

In **Mexico**, a constitutional reform for gender parity in candidacies for congress was passed in January and presents an opportunity to achieve parity in the midterm congressional elections in 2015. This was followed by legislative harmonization across the country: at the end of the year 23 of 32 state constitutions had been reformed to ensure parity in local congress. There was also a considerable increase in women's representation in congress in states where elections were held, for instance from 36 to 48 per cent in Coahuila and from 43.3 to 46.6 per cent in Nayarit.

In **Guatemala**, a constitutional court ruling on a proposal made by congress to reform the electoral law⁹ concluded that the proposed 30 per cent quota was insufficient and should be increased to a parity

reform of 50 per cent. This ruling was based on an amicus curiae presented by women's organizations with the support of UN Women.

Integration of a gender perspective in policies, actions and institutions

UN Women promotes gender mainstreaming in electoral institutions. In **Ecuador**, the Electoral Disputes Tribunal presented its Institutional Policy on Gender, which seeks to strengthen the administration of electoral justice from a gender perspective. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) in **Guatemala** developed a policy on Gender Equality and Equity 2015-2026, which is being reviewed at the Plenary Session of Magistrates, for its approval. UN Women provided an expert on gender and intercultural issues to advise the TSE in the development of an institutional diagnosis and formulation of the policy. With this same institution and with support from the Fund for Gender Equality, UN Women worked in alliance with women's organizations to promote citizenship of indigenous women in the department of Izabal and its five municipalities. This resulted in the registration to vote of more than 5,000 indigenous women. The programme also strengthened knowledge about political participation of 717 adolescent girls from public schools, who will vote for the first time in the general elections in 2015.

Strengthening women's leadership and networks

UN Women supports the creation and strengthening of caucuses of women parliamentarians, gender commissions and women's networks with the aim of fostering political and interagency dialogue for advancement of women's political rights. In 2014, UN Women provided technical support to strengthen the structure and capacities of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues in **Brazil** and **Colombia** to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The key legislative initiatives supported include Law 1719/14 on Sexual Violence in Conflict in Colombia and the Law on Femicide in Brazil. In **Honduras**, UN Women supported the Congressional Gender Equality

8 Data from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, Brazil

9 The Constitutional Court issued a favorable opinion to Article 212 of the Law on Elections and Political Parties, taking as a reference the Amicus Curiae prepared in 2013 by the movement Tu Votas por Mi, Yo Voto por Ti, with technical and financial assistance of UN Women.

Commission to introduce a legislative proposal on access to credit for poor rural women.

UN Women also provides capacity building support to women candidates and voters. In 2014, UN Women

supported The Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWIL) in the successful training of 40 female candidates in **Dominica** in advance of the 2014 elections. Out of three women who were elected, two had participated in the training.

Results from the SUMA Initiative “Democracy is Equality”

The SUMA initiative was implemented between 2010 and 2014 to advance commitments to parity democracy in Mexico.

Financed by the Fund for Gender Equality, UN Women and the National Institute for Women, SUMA strengthened affirmative action, in particular electoral quotas. Based on a strategic alliance between UN Women, national and local institutions for the advancement of women and a consortium of five women’s organizations, the programme benefited 5,000 women politicians from all political parties in more than 600 municipalities and 14 states. The programme evaluation found that 1,600 women, including indigenous women, enhanced their political and leadership skills through vocational training and mentoring. Qualitative evidence showed that participants perceived their position in politics had improved and that their possibilities to access public office were greater. This was clearly attributable to the project: the stronger the link with SUMA (more activities and time shared), the better the perception, to the point that 7 out of 10 women strongly linked with SUMA said their political position improved. In terms of quantitative results, the evaluation showed that of a target of 543 elected positions for programme participants, a total of 486 was reached, representing a rate of effectiveness of over 80 per cent.

In **Jamaica**, UN Women supported the 51% Coalition¹⁰ to develop a strategy on building women as a political constituency, which includes promotion of broad measures to advance women’s political participation. In **Haiti**, UN Women supported PLURIFEMMES, a new coalition of women who are members of political parties and civil society groups, to develop a strategic agenda and campaign for promoting women’s participation in the next elections. In **El Salvador**, UN Women worked with the Organization of Salvadoran Women (ORMUSA), municipal women leaders and other key stakeholders to promote women’s political participation in advance of the elections which will take place in March 2015.

Strategic Linkages with Political Parties

Political parties have considerable opportunity and responsibility to foster equal empowerment of

men and women. UN Women works with political parties, without distinction of ideology, to promote women’s political participation and the inclusion of a gender perspective. In order to promote women’s political participation in the congressional elections in **Colombia** in 2014, UN Women and UNDP launched the campaign ‘Democracy without Women is Incomplete,’ targeting parties and voters. Women’s representation in both houses increased by more than six percentage points following the elections.

In **Jamaica**, UN Women launched a joint Steering Committee on women’s leadership which includes the two main political parties - the Jamaica Labor Party (JLP) and the People’s National Party (PNP). Although the work of the Steering Committee is beginning, the fact that the parties have come together for the first time to work on women’s leadership over the long-term is a significant step forward.

¹⁰ The 51% Coalition is an alliance of women, women’s organizations and partners which promotes gender equality in decision-making as an essential means for Jamaica’s national development.



3

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

Photo: Panama Canal Authority

Ilya Marotta, first women Executive Vice President for Engineering and Program Management for the Panama Canal Authority and head project manager for the Panama Canal expansion.

Yet, in Latin America and the Caribbean, women are overrepresented amongst those living in poverty and their increased access to education has not yet translated into comparable access to paid labor (particularly decent work). While approximately 14 per cent of men over the age of 15 do not have access to their own incomes, this rises to 32 per cent among women. Those women who are engaged in paid work occupy greater spaces in precarious informal sector employment with limited access to social protection. More than half of all women in paid work are in the informal sector and domestic workers constitute nearly 15 per cent of the total female workforce. On average, women work eight hours more each week than men when both paid and unpaid work is taken into account. Men earn more than women at any age, level of education or type of employment.¹¹

UN Women has been actively working to support the expansion of women's economic security and rights with a focus on the most-excluded, including migrant and domestic workers, women with disabilities and rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women. Working with a variety of partners, UN Women promotes women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, access social protection and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development. One critical area of focus involves advocacy and technical support to measure and recognize the contribution of women's unpaid care work in economic models.

Women's Labor Rights

In 2014, UN Women supported the development and implementation of laws and policies to advance the rights of women workers in 12 countries.¹² This included supporting domestic worker organizations to advocate for governments to pass and implement legislation in line with ILO Convention 189,¹³ addressing

the needs of women migrant workers, and promoting gender sensitive rural development.

The programme *Constructing a Labor Agenda for Women Working in Homes and Sewing Workshops in the Southern Cone* was implemented in **Paraguay, Chile, Uruguay** and **Argentina**¹⁴ with support from UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality. As a result, nearly 10,000 women (including textile workers, migrant workers and domestic workers) with strengthened advocacy and organizing capacities developed and implemented national and regional strategies to defend and promote women's labor rights. This contributed to the passing of Law No. 20.786 in **Chile** regulating domestic workers employment conditions. The law introduces significant reforms regarding limits on working hours. In **Argentina** the Regulation of Law No. 26844 on Household Workers was approved. The new Regulation enforces worker's access to social security and work risk insurance. In **Paraguay**, three organizations¹⁵ released a joint statement on domestic work and led a national coalition of domestic workers to advocate for urgent adoption of the Domestic Work Bill. The Senate approved the bill which recognizes the labor and social security rights of domestic workers. It will go before the House of Representatives in 2015.

With support from UN Women, **Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados** and **Jamaica** all completed baseline studies to identify gaps in their national legal frameworks pertaining to compliance with ILO Convention 189. In **Barbados**, a ten point "Code of Practice for Employers of Domestic Workers" was prepared jointly by the Barbados Employers Confederation and the Ministry of Labor. In **Jamaica**, the Prime Minister stated publicly in March 2014 that the country will be enacting ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. This public commitment comes after several years of advocacy by the Jamaica Household Workers Union with the ongoing support of UN Women.

11 It is estimated that the income gap between men and women of the same age and with the same education level reaches 17 per cent.

12 Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay

13 The International Labour Organization's Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) entered into force in September 2013 and sets labour standards for domestic workers.

14 The programme was implemented by Fundacion Mujeres del Sur and Fondo Alquimia

15 Sindicato de Trabajadoras Domésticas del Paraguay (SINTRADOP); Sindicato de Trabajadoras Domésticas y Afines de Itapúa (SINTRADI); Asociación de Empleadas del Servicio Doméstico del Paraguay (ADESP)

In **Mexico**, the decree approving the Special Migration Programme (2014-2018) was published. This programme will contribute towards the consolidation of an immigration policy based on the promotion of human rights, sustainable development, gender perspective, interculturalism and human security. It seeks to facilitate the integration of migrants through better access to health services, employment benefits and legal protection. UN Women participated in the formulation process to ensure a gender equality approach.

In partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women is implementing the programme *Expanding Economic Opportunities for Rural Women Entrepreneurs* in four countries: **El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua**. This has led to strengthened partnerships,¹⁶ advocacy, dialogue and capacities at regional, national and local levels to promote the economic empowerment of rural women. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and the Ministry of the Economy (MINECO) in **Guatemala** strengthened its capacities to coordinate actions to ensure that rural development programmes contribute to the process of economic empowerment of women. The MAGA approved a new Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and a strategic framework for its implementation (2014-2023).

In 2014, 29 rural women's organizations representing 619 women from **El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico**, participated in the programme's component on business development and gained strengthened capacities in business management, time use, leadership and decision making. Some of the resulting

changes made by the organizations included provision of child care and improved decision-making processes regarding asset management and profit-sharing. The livelihoods of the women and their families improved as the women increased their investment in productive assets and in turn saw increases in revenue corresponding to increased sales.

In **Paraguay**, the Senate approved the "Public Policy Framework for Rural Women Act" which aims to ensure the social, political and cultural rights of rural women. In **Colombia**, UN Women worked with the Land Restitution Unit to promote the integration of a gender perspective and supported negotiators and victims' organizations to advocate for comprehensive, gender-sensitive rural reform as a key component of the peace process.

At regional level, UN Women provided technical support to the Central American Economic Integration System (SIECA) and the Central American Integration Bank (BCIE) which are working together with other partners¹⁷ to design a gender sensitive financial instrument, which will foster women's economic autonomy by taking into account their different needs in regards to support, collateral, repayment periods, interest and mechanisms for evaluating credit applications. It is expected that the instrument will be launched in 2015.

Women's Unpaid Labor and Time Use

Latin America is a ground breaking region in the promotion of time use as an economic indicator. UN Women has been a knowledge leader, actively promoting analysis at the regional and national levels and facilitating south-south exchanges of evidence and experience.

¹⁶ Key partners include IFAD as the main donor and technical partner; Ministry of Social Inclusion of El Salvador; Ministry of Economy of Guatemala; Institute for Women Oaxaca Mexico; Ministry of Women in Nicaragua; rural women's organizations; Rural Dialogue Group of El Salvador; academia and private sector partners.

¹⁷ Micro Business (CENPROMYPE), the International Trade Centre (ITC), Central America and Caribbean Microfinance Network (REDCAMIF)

Regulation of the Satellite Account of Unpaid Domestic Work in Peru

In Peru, UN Women supported the passing of the regulation of the Law 29700 which includes Unpaid Work in the National Accounts. The regulation establishes the guidelines, definitions and terms for measuring the Satellite Account of Unpaid Domestic Work. The Satellite Account quantifies the value generated by the unpaid work of women and men at home, including the production of household services for their own use. The first Satellite Account of Unpaid Domestic Work will be made in 2015, based on the results of the first National Survey on Time Use conducted in 2010. The regulation states that the Satellite Account will be updated every five years in line with successive implementation of Time Use Surveys.

With support from UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, the Peruvian NGO Movimiento Manuela Ramos, contributed to the development and passing of the regulation by providing advocacy, technical assistance and knowledge products.

In 2014, the longstanding collaboration between UN Women, ECLAC, INEGI and INMUJERES in **Mexico** continued to further progress on time use and unpaid work at regional level. The 12th annual International Expert Meeting on Time Use and Unpaid Work was held in June in Mexico City with participation from eight countries.¹⁸ Over time, these meetings have facilitated consolidation of tools and instruments for time use surveys and effective exchange between producers and users of information. Emphasis in 2014 was on a discussion of challenges for integrating themes relating to the value of women's unpaid work and its contribution to society and the economy in the context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Additionally in 2014, the Classification of Time Use Activities in Latin America (CAUTAL)¹⁹ was updated to increase regional harmonization and comparability in time use trends with the goal of increasing decision makers' access to evidence on time use and unpaid work to strengthen related public policies and budgets.

UN Women has been part of the Committee on Gender Studies and Time Use in **Brazil** since its creation in

2008. In 2014 the work of the Committee included thematic discussions on domestic work, social security for women and new trends in participation of women in the labor market. In **Colombia**, the first nationwide measurement on time use was launched in compliance with the Economy of Care Law. UN Women supported a study of its results from which a report was prepared to inform the design of development policies that fully integrate the economy of care.

Social Protection

The provision of gender sensitive social protection is fundamental to ensuring not only access to income but also to services that release women's time for the realization of their economic and social rights. At regional level, UN Women is an official partner of the Inter American Social Protection Network (IASPN) of the Organization of American States and is supporting efforts on gender mainstreaming to reinforce work being carried out on women's political empowerment with the Inter American Commission of Women. At country level, significant progress was made in 2014 through legislative and policy reform in **Grenada, St.**

¹⁸ Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay

¹⁹ The CAUTAL is a statistical classification that is fundamental to harmonization of time-use surveys and to providing standardized and comprehensive information on paid and unpaid work, including domestic work.

Kitts and Nevis and **St. Lucia**. This is described in the chapter on Gender Responsive National Plans and Budgets.

Private Sector Partnerships

UN Women has been expanding its work with the private sector in the region in order to leverage its potential to shape gender equitable economic and leadership opportunities and promote corporate social responsibility. For instance, in **Brazil**, 83 public and private institutions signed a Commitment Letter for the Fifth Edition of “Gender and Race Pro Equity Programme” which is coordinated by the Secretariat for Policies for Women of the Presidency of Republic (SPM) and implemented through a partnership between UN Women, SEPPIR²⁰ and ILO. The programme aims to ensure equal rights for women and men, promoting changes in companies’ organizational culture and human resources management. The partners will monitor the implementation of the agreed action plans. Companies that comply with at least 70 per cent of their planned actions will be granted the Pro Equity Seal in 2015.

UN Women also engages the private sector through its Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The Principles provide a roadmap for companies to advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. In 2014, UN Women supported the

first edition of the WEPs Award in Brazil. This award is an initiative of Itaipu Binacional – a WEPs signatory company – and aims to encourage and recognize the efforts of companies that promote a culture of gender equality and women’s empowerment in Brazil. The award was granted to 32 of 189 companies that subscribed.

In **Colombia**, UN Women launched a partnership with the Global Compact local network to encourage companies to adhere to the WEPs. The “Equipares” Seal promoted by the Ministry of Labor and the Presidential Office for Gender Equality, with the support of UNDP, is a complementary tool that contributes to implementation of the WEPs by requiring companies to comply with indicators on gender equality in order to obtain a certification. Currently 48 companies are in the process of certification for the Equality Seal.

At regional level, alliances were formed to increase awareness about Women’s Economic Empowerment through *Empower Women*.²¹ UN Women’s knowledge gateway, *Empower Women*, is an open global platform that promotes collaboration, learning and innovation to advance women’s economic empowerment. It connects women and men in more than 190 economies with development partners from the private sector, civil society, academia, governments and international organizations. The platform will be launched in Spanish in 2015.

In **Brazil**, the programme ***Women’s Economic Empowerment and Integration into the Chain of The Coca-Cola Company*** aims to increase access to economic empowerment and opportunities for low-income women entrepreneurs, community leaders, members of recycling cooperatives and young people. It is built around “Coletivo Coca-Cola,” a shared value platform from Coca-Cola Brazil Institute (ICCB) that aims to incorporate a gender equality and human rights perspectives to better connect women to the company’s value chain. During 2014, 2,800 women belonging to 223 recycling cooperatives and young women from low income communities were trained and reported positive impact on their self-esteem; increased awareness and knowledge in human rights, women’s empowerment and gender equality; and slight increase in their income.

²⁰ Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality

²¹ Partners include inter alia: OAS Washington, BBVA (Panama and Spain), Women’s International Shipping Association (WISTA), The Women’s Intellectual Circle of Panama (CIMIP), The Panama Canal, The City of Knowledge, Microsoft, PRO Magazine in Guatemala, Aequalles in Colombia and the International Cooperation University of Costa Rica (UCI), AFAEMME from Spain



4

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Violence against women and girls represents a persistent and widespread human rights violation in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Photo: United Nations/Cuba
Children during a UNITE's rally to eliminate violence against women in Cuba.

A study conducted in 2013 in twelve countries in the region found high percentages of women ever married or in a union reported having experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner. This ranged from 17 per cent in the Dominican Republic to 53 per cent in Bolivia.²²

Violence against women is also linked to lack of citizen security which is a serious and growing challenge in the region, including as related to organized crime. The structural causes of the current displacement crisis in the Northern Triangle²³ include high levels of violence combined with poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities which are driving people to migrate. Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala have some of the highest homicide rates in the world, rates of femicide (the gender-based killing of women) are amongst the highest in the continent and violence against women is pervasive.

In recent years the number of femicides has increased alarmingly in many countries of the region, a phenomenon that requires immediate and systematic attention. According to a recent global report, “of the 25 countries that feature high and very high femicide rates, more than 50 per cent (14) are in the Americas: four in the Caribbean, four in Central America, and six in South America.”²⁴

The Convention of Belem do Pará (1994) sets the normative standards for addressing the pandemic in the region. Although great progress has been made in the area of legislation to end violence against women, a recent mapping conducted by UNDP and UN

Women²⁵ identified weaknesses in implementation. In order for the promise of the Convention to become a reality more comprehensive institutional responses are urgently needed. UN Women therefore supports governments, civil society and other key stakeholders to place violence against women and girls on the political agenda and advocates for multi-sectoral programmes that integrate justice, security, health, employment, education, culture and communication. UN Women has also increasingly been working to prevent violence by challenging discriminatory social and cultural norms and unequal power relations, particularly through work with men and boys. UN Women coordinates the Secretary-General’s Campaign, UNiTE to End Violence against Women, in the region and has led initiatives under its umbrella in 32 countries in partnership with the UN System.

Laws, Policies, Plans and Protocols

Latin America and the Caribbean has been a leader in the passage of laws and policies to combat violence against women and girls and countries continue to review and strengthen these frameworks. In 2014, UN Women supported legal and policy reform and development of national action plans to address violence against women and girls in 14 countries.²⁶

At the regional level, UN Women partnered with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to support these processes at regional level through the launch of the **Latin American Protocol Model of Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women (femicide)**.

22 Pan American Health Organization. Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Comparative Analysis of Population-Based Data from 12 Countries. 2013

23 The Northern Triangle is made up of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras

24 Global burden of armed violence report 2011. http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/GBAV2/GBAV2011_CH4_rev.pdf

25 The Commitment of the States: Plans and Policies to Eradicate Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNDP and UN Women 2013.

UN Women's Areas of Focus to End Violence against Women (VAW) in Latin America and the Caribbean



The Latin American Protocol Model of Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women was presented by UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on Gender Related killing of Women and Girls (Bangkok, Thailand 11-13 November 2014) organized by UNODC. The final report of this meeting highlighted that the protocol constitutes “a global good practice that should be translated into all official languages and used as the basis for any other protocols developed at regional and country level.”

Drawn up as part of the UNiTE Campaign’s pillar on “No More Impunity and Increased Access to Justice” the *Protocol Model* is a tool for inter-disciplinary investigation and prosecution of gender-related killing of women. In accordance with international standards, it provides guidelines for judiciaries, prosecutors, police and forensic institutions and places strong emphasis on national ownership. It has already been adopted by regional mechanisms including the Organization of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Central American Council of Ministers of Women. UN Women will have a strong focus in 2015 on supporting adaptation of the Protocol Model at country level.

Additionally at regional level, the Latin American Conference of Justice Ministers²⁷ and the Central American Council of Ministers of Women²⁸ each adopted protocols to address violence against women.

In 2014 two countries introduced new legislation on femicide. The Federal Senate in **Brazil** approved

the inclusion of femicide as a form of aggravated murder in the Penal Code.²⁹ **Ecuador’s** Penal Code was also reformed to recognize femicide as a felony and criminalize all acts of physical, psychological and sexual violence against women that happen in the family environment. In both cases, UN Women contributed through technical support and inputs based on the Latin American Protocol Model of Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women as a key tool for review and adaptation.

Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti and Paraguay also advanced legislative reforms to address violence against women. In **Bolivia**, a Supreme Decree³⁰ was adopted to regulate the implementation of the integral law on violence against women, including through budget allocations. In **Colombia**, a landmark law on access to justice for victims of sexual violence in conflict³¹ was passed, complementing the existing legislation on violence against women. In **Haiti**, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs revised the draft national law against gender based violence and the Responsible Paternity Act was passed in June which promotes the “protection of all children without discrimination”.

In **Paraguay**, UN Women supported the Ministry of Women and civil society organizations with the drafting of the Integrated Bill on Violence against Women.

In **Honduras**, UN Women provided technical support to the National Institute of Women to publish the National Plan to End Violence against Women. UN Women also supported the development of national plans to end violence against women and girls in **Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Chile and Uruguay**. In **Mexico**, UN Women supported the design of indicators for inclusion in the Comprehensive Programme to Prevent, Treat, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women (2014-2018).

26 Bolivia, Brazil, the Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

27 “Protocol for care for victims of gender violence” will be used in the context of a EURO Social initiative in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Brazil and Paraguay.

28 “Additional Protocol to the Treaty on Central American Integration on the prevention, treatment, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women and restoration of their rights”

29 In 2015, the Lower House also approved the inclusion and President Dilma Rousseff sanctioned the law on 9 March, 2015.

30 Supreme Decree 2145 regulates the implementation of Law 348 to guarantee women a life free of violence

31 Law 1719/14 on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Access to Services

In 2014, UN Women worked with judicial actors, police and other service providers to improve access to comprehensive services for survivors of violence in

eight countries.³² The key model of integrated service provision in the region continues to be “Ciudad Mujer” (Women’s City) in **El Salvador**.

Ciudad Mujer: A model of integrated services for women

Ciudad Mujer provides “one-stop” centres where a range of psychosocial, legal and health services are accessible to women. Since the inception of the programme, approximately 750,000 women have benefitted from the services provided.

Ciudad Mujer is a flagship social programme of the Salvadoran government, implemented via the Secretariat of Social Inclusion (SIS). Services are provided by 16 governmental institutions, thereby guaranteeing sustainability and resource efficiency. Currently, there are six facilities throughout the country. Ciudad Mujer has received delegations from all over the world, interested in replicating the experience in their countries and has also received many national and international awards and accolades.

UN Women also supports the “Women Living Free from Violence” programme in **Brazil**, which opened in 2015 and is inspired by the Ciudad Mujer model. The programme provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral services for survivors of violence against women.

Increasingly, mobile technology is being used to create wider and easier access to information about rights and services related to violence against women and girls. In **Brazil**, UN Women and SPM³³ launched a nationwide smartphone application “Clique 180.” The app includes information about forms of violence against women, women’s legal rights, and the services available. SPM has incorporated it as part of the 24-hour hotline for women and UN Women has received requests to replicate it in other countries. Between May and December 2014, 3,960 people downloaded the app and the hotline received 485,105 calls. In **Ecuador**, the Ministry of Justice launched the “Infórmate, Habla, Actúa”³⁴ campaign with a web page and mobile application that provides information regarding gender-based

violence and related laws and services. In **Guatemala**, UN Women is working with the Ministry of the Interior to connect users to a new technologies based hotline to ensure prompt police protection and referral to free service providers when needed. National Civil Police average response time has reduced from four hours in 2012 to 15 minutes in 2014.

Police response is critical in early intervention. In **Colombia, Chile** and **El Salvador**, a project supported by the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women was implemented by the civil society organization, Sur Corporación. Sur Corporación focused on addressing the need to strengthen police recording and follow-up of reports of violence against women through the implementation of an in-person and online course on policing and women’s right to live in a city free of violence. In total these courses have engaged nearly 700 police officers, enhancing their knowledge of the different types and modalities of violence against women.

32 Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

33 Secretariat for Policies for Women of the Presidency of Republic

34 Inform yourself. Speak. Act.

In **Guatemala** the General Prosecutor's Office and the National Civil Police adopted Gender Equality Policies based on evaluations to assess quality of services provided to women and the status and working conditions of female staff. The judicial system has also started the process. The three organizations prioritized provision of gender training to all staff as well as institutional measures to increase women's recruitment and career development. Some 900 staff of the three organizations have received training and support to enhance their capacities to provide gender sensitive security and justice services. In **Mexico**, UN Women's longstanding collaboration with the National Supreme Court of Justice resulted in the development of a training initiative to integrate gender and intercultural perspectives in the administration of justice and the continued implementation of the online course on Mexico's Constitutional Reform on Human Rights.

UN Women also continued to provide support at country level to address violence against women in public spaces. Under the framework of the Safe Cities initiative, UN Women supported the development of the Citizen Safety Agenda for Women in **Honduras**. This tool was used to influence local government in Tegucigalpa to build a local plan on citizen security

taking into consideration women's rights. UN Women, in association with UNDP and the National Autonomous University carried out a certification programme on addressing violence against women and girls, offered to public officers from justice and health sectors, as well as municipal officers. Municipal Offices for Women have developed operation manuals with emphasis on addressing violence against women and girls.

In **Ecuador**, Quito's multi-sector plan "*Quito: Safe City for Women and Girls*" has four complementary components: Safe Neighborhoods, Safe Transportation, Attention Services and Young People Committed to Non Violence. Under this umbrella, services to respond to sexual violence against women and children in Quito's metropolitan transport service were launched in 2014. Of the women who participated in the survey for the baseline for this initiative, 91 per cent reported having experienced sexual harassment in public transportation; 84 per cent identified public transportation as insecure; 39 per cent indicated that their body was touched without an apparent reason and 40 per cent said they had been victims of comments or statements related to their body or physical appearance.

Making transportation services safe for women and girls in Quito

In the framework of "*Quito: Safe City for Women and Girls*", services to respond to sexual violence against women and children in the metropolitan transport service were launched in 2014. The initiative includes improvement of bus stops for safety and prevention of harassment and construction of booths for immediate access to services for victims of sexual violence located in five of the main bus stops. A technical team is in place to coordinate and provide services and a protocol has been implemented so that all transport personnel know what to do when an incident occurs. Services are accompanied by a publicity campaign aiming to prevent violence against women and raise awareness about the relevant laws and services available. Data is collected regularly regarding public perceptions and experience of violence against women to provide evidence for further planning and evaluation.

Data and Analysis to Inform Evidence-based Responses to Violence against Women

In 2014, UN Women supported the development, implementation and institutionalization of surveys on gender based violence in **Uruguay** and **Colombia**. In **Colombia**, UN Women supported the Gender Equality Council to plan and implement the second survey on institutional and social tolerance to gender based violence, the results of which will be available in early 2015. In **Uruguay**, the results of the first ever National Survey on Gender Based Violence³⁵ were launched in November by the Government in partnership with the UN System. Findings show that almost seven out of ten women in Uruguay have experienced gender-based violence. While violence affects women of all socio-economic and education levels at similar rates, prevalence is higher among young and afro-descendant women.

In **Honduras**, UN Women and UNDP supported the National Institute for Women to develop an information system to register cases of violence against women and girls. Also, an assessment on violence against women and girls at national and local level was carried out and the results will be published in 2015.

Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

In 2014, UN Women continued to support prevention efforts, including through the engagement of men and boys, in seven countries.³⁶

In the Caribbean, UN Women worked in partnership with the Caribbean Male Action Network (CARIMAN) to expand its engagement of men and boy in ending violence against women and girls. A 12 session training curriculum for men and boys was developed and piloted in **Grenada** and will roll out in three secondary

schools in **Antigua** and **Barbuda** early in 2015. UN Women also continued to support the Partners for Peace Programme which uses a psycho-educational approach to prevent men who are in the court system as perpetrators of domestic violence from repeating patterns of violence against women.

UN Women also supported campaigns to reach wide audiences with messages about violence against women and girls. During the FIFA World Cup in **Brazil**, 1 million stickers were distributed in the 12 host cities which aimed to educate fans about men and boys' responsibility to end violence against women and challenge gender stereotypes.³⁷ In Mexico, the campaign "Real Men Never Hit Women" was launched with the participation of world renowned Mexican boxers speaking directly to men. The spots were produced by The Women's Project Foundation with the support of UN Women. The campaign was broadcast in **Mexico** and **Honduras**.

UN Women also worked in alliance with the private sector in several countries. Tupperware in **Uruguay** joined the UNiTe Campaign by launching a special line of products whose profits are devoted to violence against women initiatives and carried out an awareness raising campaign with the media. An alliance between UN Women and the Women's Project Foundation (TV Azteca) in **Mexico**, led to a race with 12,000 runners wearing orange shirts with messaging to stop violence against women. Twenty thousand spectators watched the race. Venevision in **Venezuela** launched public service announcements for November 25th and promoted state sponsored helplines for women survivors of violence. Avon joined the UNiTe Campaign in **Chile** and agreed to disseminate services to women suffering from violence as well as to fund a small community programme.³⁸

³⁵ http://www.inmujeres.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/33876/1/informe_resultados_penpvbgg.pdf

³⁶ Brazil, Chile, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela

³⁷ In the scope of the initiative "The Brave is not Violent."

³⁸ <http://www.onu.cl/onu/avonadhiereacampanauneteyfortalececooperacioncononumujeres/>



5

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The central importance of women's participation in all aspects of peace negotiations and post-conflict and post-crisis reconstruction has been affirmed through UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and six subsequent resolutions.³⁹

The resolutions emphasize the inclusion of women's participation and needs in peace building dialogues, transitional justice and legislative reform. They also call for women's participation in disaster response, recovery and risk reduction mechanisms. In 2014, UN Women supported strengthened implementation of these commitments in five countries⁴⁰ in the region.

Women's Participation in Peace Dialogues

2014 was a pivotal year for **Colombia's** peace dialogues in Havana and saw significant qualitative improvement of the inclusion of gender equality in the peace process. Three major partial agreements were reached⁴¹ and negotiators are now addressing points related to victims and the definition of transitional justice mechanisms. The last point in which negotiation has started is "the end of conflict," which embraces disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The two women plenipotentiary negotiators influenced the process at all levels and the partial agreements reference gender equality and women's rights and include specific measures to promote women's participation. A Gender Sub-commission was established as a mechanism to ensure that a) equitable participation is guaranteed to women during the peace process; b) that an evaluation of the impact of the armed conflict on women and girls is undertaken and c) that peace agreements include specific measures to ensure women's participation in peace-building and in the post-conflict settings.

UN Women has supported the process through ongoing engagement with the two women plenipotentiary negotiators. The first delegation of women's organizations to Havana represented an important and historic moment in the peace building process. UN Women supported the delegation to present their proposals to the negotiators and to

meet with the Gender Sub-commission. Furthermore, the participation of a majority of women⁴² in the five delegations of victims who traveled to Havana (62 per cent of the delegates were women) gave visibility to the impact of the conflict on women's lives. UN Women supported the composition of the delegations, ensuring women's representation and the selection of different forms of rights violations to be heard by the negotiators. Together with other UN Agencies, UN Women organized national and regional victims' fora to gather proposals that were shared with the negotiators relating to the topics of the six point agenda: Rural Reform, Political participation, Illicit Drugs, Victims, End of Conflict, and Implementation. 49 per cent of the participants in these fora were women (1,537).

National Action Plans and Committees

In addition to working within the formal peace processes, UN Women supports implementation of national level commitments through National Action Plans on Resolution 1325.

In 2014, UN Women continued to support the Inter-institutional Board on Women Peace and Security (MIMPАЗ) in **Guatemala**. With a mandate to facilitate, monitor and report on the implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda, MIMPАЗ has developed a WPS National Action Plan project, which incorporates the results of the 2013 consultations with expert civil society organizations, women human rights defenders, public institutions and women survivors of conflict. In **El Salvador**, UN Women supported the Salvadoran Institute for the Advancement of Women (ISDEMU), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and strategic allies,⁴³ in the process leading to the installation of the multi-sector National Committee for the implementation of 1325.⁴⁴

40 Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti

41 Out of a six point agenda, three major partial agreements were reached: a) comprehensive agricultural development policy; b) political participation agreement; c) a solution to the cultivation of illicit drugs.

42 Five victims' delegations travelled to the peace talks. Out of the 60 delegates, 37 were women (62 per cent).

43 Strategic allies, known as "Amigas de la 1325," were UN Women, the Government of Chile through its Embassy, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and CORDAID.

44 Established in November 2014, the National Committee for SCR 1325 in El Salvador includes the Minister of Foreign affairs, Minister of Defense, Minister of Labour, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, ISDEMU, Children and Adolescents Committee, Women's Parliamentary Group, Ombudsman, women's civil society organizations.

Gender Sensitive Transitional Justice

UN Women supports efforts to increase the visibility of women's experiences in conflict as a part of the

official historical record, and as a means to promote women's greater access to post-conflict justice.

In 2014, demand for justice in Guatemala led to the opening of the trial of the first case of sexual slavery during conflict in global history to reach national courts.

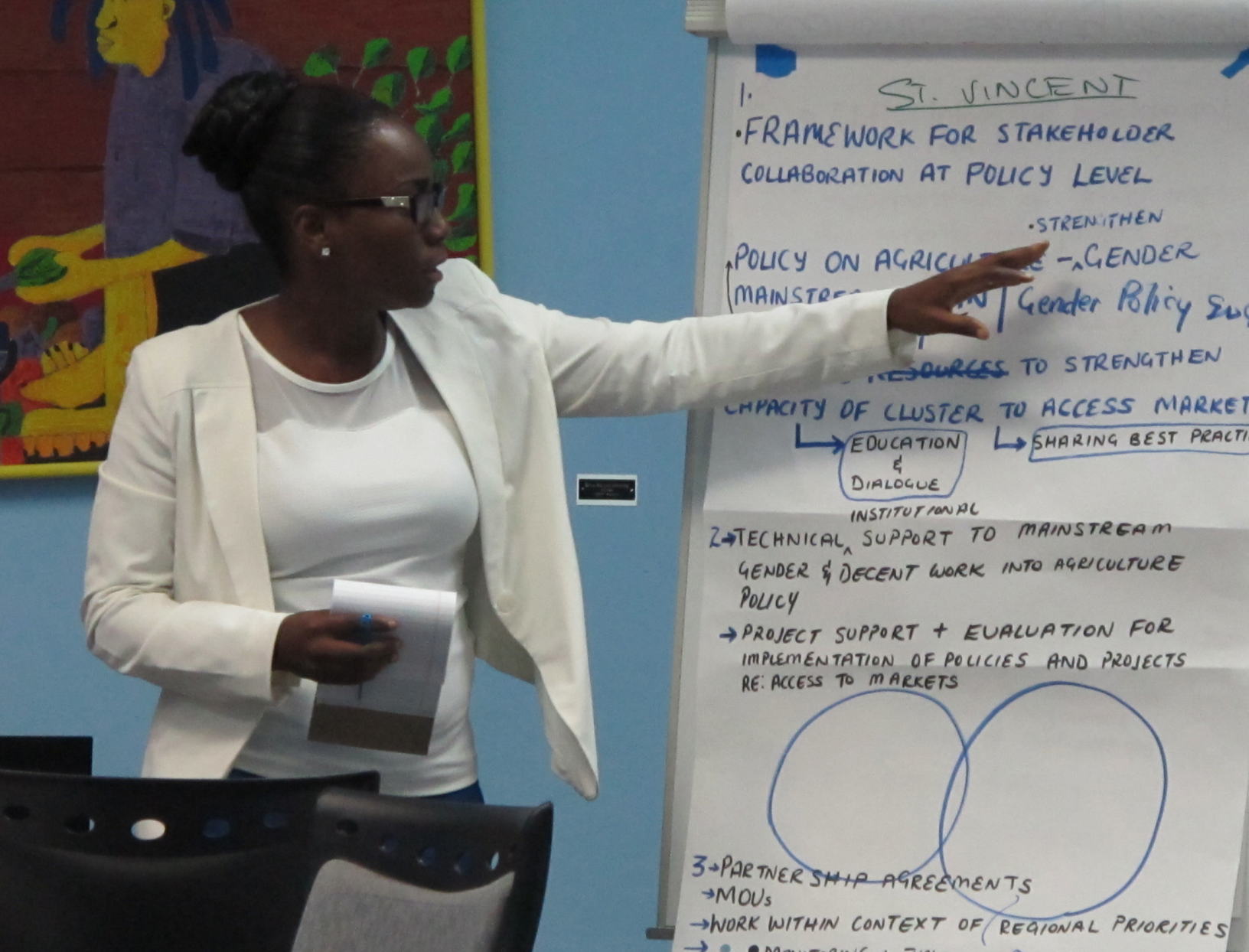
Perpetrated in the Sepur Zarco military base against 15 q'eqchi women during the armed conflict, this case has set a historical breakthrough for the international gender jurisprudence. One military commissioner and one military official are under preventive detention. UN Women and partners provided national and international experts to support the prosecutors and civil parties. Women's human rights and gender experts provided legal assessments to prosecutors and the court, including analysis on femicide, conflict-related gender crimes, military strategies, and witness declarations.

In **Colombia**, UN Women is partnering with civil society groups and the main institutions responsible for the implementation of the existing Victim's Law (the National Protection Unit, the National Centre of Historical Memory, the Victims' Attention and Integral Reparation Unit, and the Land Restitution Unit) to lay the ground for transitional justice for women in the context of a possible peace agreement. UN Women supported strengthened integration of a gender equality perspective in reparation processes in order to increase the access of women victims to individual or collective reparation provisions.

The final report of **Brazil's** National Truth Commission's Working Group on Gender, which was supported by UN Women, was launched in 2014. It incorporates a gender perspective and includes a chapter about sexual violence, gender-based violence and violence against children and adolescents.

Disaster Risk Reduction

UN Women supported the integration of the gender perspective in disaster risk reduction and resilience building efforts in **Haiti** where UN Women has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Interior to assess the National Plan for Disaster Risk Management to take into account gender equality commitments. Under this agreement UN Women also supports the Direction of Civil Protection to facilitate the participation of women and their organizations in actions for disaster risk reduction and resilience building and to strengthen capacities of Haitian disaster cycle management staff in gender mainstreaming. These activities, which will continue in 2015, will integrate priorities of women's economic empowerment in order to improve sustainability of livelihoods by addressing vulnerability to recurrent shocks.



6 GENDER RESPONSIVE NATIONAL PLANS AND BUDGETS

The global consultations on the Means of Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals have placed a strong emphasis on the ability of institutions to adjust and develop new capacities to plan for, manage and measure the post 2015 development goals.

Photo: UN Women/Sharon Carter-Burke

UN Women NGO partner, Kozel Fraser, Coordinator of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-based Winward Islands Farmers' Association, at a UN Women MCO Caribbean workshop.

In addition, the need for strong financing, strong participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and localization of the new development agenda to take account of the different realities and contexts are important considerations going forward. These components are essential to ensure a transformative and effective implementation of the SDGs which contributes to the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.

A key commitment from the Special Session on Beijing+20 in Latin America and the Caribbean is to "establish a technical working group on gender budgeting, which will comprise representatives of the Governments of the countries of the region and civil society and will be supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women." This recognizes UN Women's expertise and mandate in this area of work at the same time as establishing the basis from which

a gender responsive policy framework can be further advanced in the region.

UN Women's work on gender responsive planning and budgeting supports the improvement and implementation of government commitments to gender equality and women's rights in the region. This work aims to strengthen policy, planning and budgeting processes at national and local levels for improved government accountability, transparency and service delivery. The full and equal participation of women and civil society is central to achieving these objectives.

Working in partnership with Ministries of Finance and Planning, UN Women has provided technical assistance for the development of methodologies and a statistical evidence base to strengthen national ownership for the inclusion and monitoring of gender equality commitments in national and local plans and budgets in 13 countries.⁴⁵

Major Advances in Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting in Mexico:

In Mexico, the National Development Plan 2013-2018 is the first national development strategy that mainstreams gender equality and women's empowerment in all its priority areas. Linked to this, the National Gender Equality Policy (PROIGUALDAD 2013-2018) focuses on accelerating substantive equality.

In 2014, Mexico achieved a substantive boost in legislation for gender responsive budgeting and an increase in the national earmarked budget for gender equality and women's rights. The federal budget allocated to gender equality increased substantially, reaching approximately USD \$ 1.68 billion in 2014. This represents an increase of more than 157 percent since 2008. Additionally, from 2013 to 2014 the states that incorporate a gender perspective in their expenditure budgets increased from 7 to 18 and the states that mandate gender-responsive budgeting in their budget laws increased from 7 to 13.

UN Women worked with the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) to develop knowledge products and roll-out capacity strengthening initiatives on gender responsive budgeting for staff involved in the budgeting and planning processes. This strategy boosted legislative harmonization efforts across the country and the earmarking of resources for gender equality and women's rights.

⁴⁵ Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia.

Integrating Gender Equality in National Development Plans

With technical assistance of UN Women and coordination from the Ministry of Women, **Paraguay's** new National Development Plan, which was launched in December 2014, includes gender mainstreaming as well as a specific chapter on gender equality. An Interagency Advisory Committee will be established to monitor and support the implementation of the Plan. In **Honduras**, a National Gender Strategic Plan for the Government Plan (2014-2018) was developed by the Presidential Direction of Strategic Planning, Budgeting and Public Investment with support from UN Women. A new outcome on development and social inclusion was defined and specifically includes priorities for women.

In **Colombia**, UN Women and the International Centre for Social and Economic Thought analyzed the data from the Time Use Survey conducted in 2013 as critical inputs for the development of recommendations for the new National Development Plan (2014-2018). Through the Fund for Gender Equality, UN Women supported the Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of Colombian Amazonia (OPIAC) to train 246 indigenous women in leadership, governance and communication in order to participate in public spaces to position the role of Amazonian women in the indigenous agenda and in the consultative process for the new National Development Plan.

Gender Sensitive Social Protection Policies

In the Caribbean, UN Women and UNICEF have provided joint technical support on child and gender responsive approaches to social protection.⁴⁶ In 2014 a gender-sensitive Social Protection Policy Framework was adopted in **Grenada** and a gender-sensitive Social Development Assistance Act was adopted in **St. Kitts and Nevis**. In **St. Lucia** a gender-sensitive National Social Protection Policy and Strategic Action

Plan has been developed and is before the Cabinet for consideration for approval. Additionally, a Budget Analysis and Fiscal Space Analysis for Social Protection was completed in **St. Lucia**. This represents a nationally owned gender responsive budget review around social protection. The results have informed the ongoing "Gender Aware Beneficiary Analysis of the Public Assistance Programme (PAP)" which is intended to lead to a Costing and Budgeting of Gender Equality Priorities in the PAP.

Integrating gender perspectives in National AIDS Plans

In line with its priorities as a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, UN Women aims to incorporate priorities related to gender equality within the HIV and AIDS response. With emphasis on the needs of indigenous women and women affected by gender-based violence, UN Women began implementation of a regional project in 2014 to strengthen leadership capacities of networks of women living with and affected by HIV in seven countries.⁴⁷

The data collection phase of an assessment of the level of integration of responses to HIV and violence against women in public policies and services was completed in **Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay**. Field work was also completed for a diagnosis of barriers to access to comprehensive HIV services among indigenous women in **Ecuador and Guatemala**. Data will be analyzed in the first quarter of 2015 and the findings will be used to inform the development of national recommendations and advocacy strategies for a gender transformative response to the HIV epidemic in these countries. Also in 2014, a workshop was carried out in **Guatemala** to train 30 indigenous women leaders on barriers to access to comprehensive HIV care and strengthen their knowledge and capacities to conduct effective advocacy on this issue. This training will be replicated in Ecuador early in 2015.

⁴⁶ The UN Joint Programme on Social Protection for the Eastern Caribbean is coordinated by UN Women and UNICEF with participation from FAO and UNDP

⁴⁷ Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay

Gender Equality Policies and Action Plans

In **Haiti**, the National Policy on Gender Equality was approved by the Executive Power in August, six years after its initial formulation. The Ministry for the Status and Rights of Women (MCFDF) led its development and the process leading to its approval with support from UN Women. The policy will be formally launched early in 2015. UN Women, through the Haitian Governance Enhancement Project, supported the MCFDF in drafting and costing the action plan for implementation of the newly approved policy. The action plan covers the period 2014-2020. The gaps in funding between the allocated budgets and the costing of the first year of the action plan are now used as a basis for advocacy and negotiations with the national government and donors.

A National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan was adopted by the Cabinet of **Grenada**. UN Women provided technical and financial support to the development of this policy and national action plan including direct technical support to national consultations in support of the development and validation of the policy.

Budgeting for Gender Equality and Women's Rights

In **Bolivia**, UN Women's support to the adoption of the Supreme Decree 2145 which regulates the implementation of the law guaranteeing women a life free of violence, included advocacy and generation of evidence for the funding framework. The Supreme Decree lays out implementation requirements including resource allocations and budget requirements. The findings of a UN Women supported study on the special police force on violence against women (FELCV) and its related services identified critical gaps in the funding framework. As a result the Supreme Decree stipulates that a minimum of five per cent of taxes from hydrocarbons that are destined to public safety in each municipality must be allocated

to strengthen the FELCV and complementary services to address violence against women.

Monitoring Mechanisms

In **Brazil**, the National Plan for Policies for Women 2013-2015, consolidates implementation of all policies that benefit women under one multi-sector plan. The Secretary of Policies for Women coordinates monitoring meetings with the participation of all ministries and other public institutions that are responsible for the implementation of policies included in the plan.

In **Ecuador**, the System of Fiscal Management developed by the Ministry of Finance to manage the national budget has a specific classifier to track resources on gender equality. A dialogue mechanism has been established between the Commission of Economics, the Parliamentarian Group for Women's rights, the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF and UN Women to improve tracking of resources on gender equality. This mechanism will be formalized in 2015 to monitor resources on gender equality in the long term.

Strengthening institutional and local capacities

In **Ecuador**, Local Management Committees were established in four provinces⁴⁸ to define priority policies for women and the pertinent allocation of budgets. Local Management Committees include municipal authorities and representatives from women's organizations.

UN Women and the National Centre for Work Education in **Honduras** introduced a module on gender responsible budgeting in the Diploma on Municipal Management, Development and Public Policy that is implemented in 14 municipalities in the south-central area of the country. Additionally, UN Women supported the southern women's network to present three gender audits for municipal budgets and systematize their process for demanding financing and accountability for gender equality at local level.

48 Azuay, Manabí and the cantons of Santa Elena and Saraguro



7

LOOKING AHEAD

Important lessons have been learnt from the process of achieving these impressive results as UN Women looks towards the future.

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

UN Women works with rural women to rebuild the social fabric in Colombia and mitigate the effects of the conflict on the daily lives of women and their families.

Amongst other initiatives, in the area of political participation, UN Women ⁴⁹ is planning a comprehensive monitoring system that will analyze and address identified challenges in relation to various measures put into place to heighten women's participation (including quotas) as well as connecting participation to the achievement of specific objectives (such as ending violence against women and economic empowerment). Efforts to enhance women's economic empowerment will ensure more strategic, sustainable, approaches that enhance attention to women's rights across all levels of economic and social protection policies, as well as building upon more micro-level approaches focused on women's entrepreneurship. Expanding upon the successful results of 2014, ending violence against women and girls initiatives will focus particularly upon improving access to justice, and ending impunity, devoting special attention to innovation in the area of prevention. The anticipated agreement on the Post 2015 Development Agenda which will be followed by the processes of translating the goals and target to national contexts.

UN Women will look to ensure effective roll out of nationally owned, gender-responsive plans with requisite budgets for the implementation of the gender dimensions of these plans at the national level.

In order to achieve the above and to respond to unabated demand from partners, UN Women will step up its efforts to mobilize increased resources. Despite an overall context of increased economic growth in the region, the 20 year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action demonstrated clearly that significant gender equality challenges remain. In order to accelerate progress, UN Women is currently developing a series of regional flagship initiatives and reaching out to regional and other donor counterparts for support. Partnerships with the private sector will also be expanded, as well as those with development banks and host governments. This expanded resource base will be necessary to achieve sustainable progress in relation to these remaining challenges and to realize the future we want for all.

In 2014, UN Women launched its HeForShe Campaign with actress Emma Watson at the United Nations General Assembly. The campaign is a solidarity movement for gender equality that brings together one half of humanity in support of the other half of humanity, for the benefit of all. The campaign is expanding rapidly in the region and will be an important platform for our advocacy efforts in the coming years.

⁴⁹ Recently launched by UN Women, UNDP and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, "ATENEA" , is a regional system to monitor progress in the implementation of policies for parity.

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