



12 October 2023

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

23-00949

Sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Hybrid meeting, 11 and 12 October 2023

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

WHOSE PRIORITY THEME IS

**“ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT
OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS BY ADDRESSING POVERTY AND STRENGTHENING
INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCING WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE”**

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING OF
THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



We, the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in the framework of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on 11 and 12 October 2023, at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2024,

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

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

Confirming the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that make up the Regional Gender Agenda and are included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977), the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001 (1994), the Santiago Consensus (1997), the Lima Consensus (2000), the Mexico City Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007), the Brasilia Consensus (2010), the

Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), the Santiago Commitment (2020), and the Buenos Aires Commitment (2022),

Recognizing that gender inequality and the feminization of poverty are a concern for all countries, and in particular for those of Latin America and the Caribbean, and that they represent an urgent challenge with multiple implications for the realization of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women, adolescents and girls, and are directly related to the sexual division of labour and the unjust social organization of care, gender-based violence, lack of economic opportunities, lack of access to economic and productive resources, including access to decent work, to title, possession, ownership and control of land, to social protection systems and public services, in particular universal and good-quality services for education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, care, prevention of gender-based violence and care in such situations, as well as women's low participation in decision-making processes,

Recognizing also the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, racism, stigmatization and xenophobia, unequal power relations between women and men, discriminatory laws and policies and gender stereotypes and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity,

Concerned by the worsening economic, social and environmental situation resulting from the prevailing development model and multiple and interrelated international health, care, energy, food and financial crises, the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and global climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and the high level of public debt in many countries of the region, and by the implications thereof for the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of the rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region,

Reaffirming the need to ensure the exercise of women's rights and their autonomy, in particular in the current context marked by the resurgence of conservative positions that amount to a threat of possible backsliding for women's rights;

Recognizing that social, political and economic changes and the current digital transformation, as well as the need to generate analysis of their impact on poverty among women,

Recognizing also that women and girls affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters face particular barriers in gaining access to water and sanitation, health services, education and food security,

Considering that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, adolescents and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent, inalienable and interrelated, are crucial for the full and equal participation of all women, adolescents and girls in society and for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and the reduction of multiple inequalities, agree to:

1. *Reaffirm* once again the commitment to take all necessary and progressive measures so that States, as duty bearers, will accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization at the highest level of machineries for the advancement of women, including at ministerial or equivalent level, reinforcing their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy, and the mainstreaming of gender at the different levels and branches of the State, increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with civic participation;

2. *Also reaffirm* the renewed commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions and hunger everywhere, to further promote sustainable development, including inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social and financial inclusion, to combat inequalities within and among countries as well as to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of all women, adolescents and girls throughout their life course, and peaceful and inclusive societies in which no one is left behind while preserving the planet for future generations;

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

4. *Also recognize* that to achieve gender equality and ensure the human rights of women and adolescent and young girls in all their diversity and the exercise of their autonomy, it is vital to overcome the four structural challenges of gender inequality entrenched in the current unequal power relations in Latin America and the Caribbean, namely socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty, discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege, the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care, and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere;

5. *Promote* the adoption of comprehensive and specific laws and regulations on gender equality and women's human rights, including legislation on the right to a life free of all forms of gender-based violence, and ensure their full and effective implementation;

6. *Design* and implement more effective measures with a gender and intersectional approach aimed at eradicating poverty faced by women, adolescents and girls, in particular those subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, and improving their living conditions and promoting their equal participation in decision-making, including through labour policies, public services and social protection programmes;

7. *Also design* and implement public policies with a territorial perspective that help to redress the conditions of poverty affecting women in the region, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States, and that recognize the differential impact that the uneven distribution of the benefits and costs of globalization and digitalization and the effects of climate change have on men and women;

8. *Eliminate* all forms of discrimination against women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and implement targeted measures to address, among others, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women and girls enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, which can, inter alia, contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and to the reduction of inequalities;

9. *Promote* the adoption, where needed, of laws and comprehensive policy measures and their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, to ensure access for women, adolescents and girls to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations;

10. *Also promote* the enactment and enforcement of laws and policies to eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against women of all ages and provide means of effective redress in cases of non-compliance, including through measures to ensure that victims and survivors have access to medical, psychosocial and legal support services and to educational, economic and employment opportunities;

11. *Encourage* labour participation of women in all their diversity in sectors that are key to structural change with equality, eliminating occupational segregation and all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labour markets and in education and training, ensuring decent work and wage equality, and the implementation of care policies, systems and services that ensure gender co-responsibility and co-responsibility between the State, the market, families, communities and individuals;

12. *Recognize* care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State, adopting regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence and workplace and sexual harassment in formal and informal work;

13. *Create* enabling conditions for the autonomy of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance, the provision of and investment in affordable, quality infrastructure and essential services, promoting, among other things, universal access to comprehensive health services, including mental health services, sexual and reproductive health, and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, through access to information and comprehensive sexuality education and to safe abortion services in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation, as well as access to education and comprehensive services for the prevention of gender-based violence against women, safe drinking water, safe, nutritious and sufficient food, sanitation, clean and affordable renewable energy, public transport, housing, social protection and decent work for women;

14. *Ensure* that machineries for the advancement of women are afforded the highest level in government hierarchy, supported by the normative framework, so that, in executing their functions, they can fulfil their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy, and ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the State structure;

15. *Strengthen* the capacity of national machinery for the advancement of women by providing sufficient allocation of financial, technical and human resources, to enable them to effectively carry out their mandates;

16. *Establish* permanent government mechanisms, with specific mandates, division of duties, resource allocations and work plans, for intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination, especially between machineries for the advancement of women and central planning and budgeting units, to participate in the preparation and implementation of development plans, gender equality policies and public budgets, mainstreaming a gender and intersectional perspective in planning and budgeting at the national, subnational and local levels;

17. *Design* and implement plans for training and ongoing education, in partnership with academic centres, feminist organizations and international organizations, on gender equality, women's rights, intersectionality and interculturality in all public institutions, particularly the justice system, security forces and the health and education sectors, in order to have human resources skilled in the design and implementation of sectoral and cross-cutting gender policies nationwide;

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

19. *Assess*, using costing exercises with a gender perspective, the budgetary needs of various State institutions linked to achieving the Regional Gender Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and identify available and potential sources of public financing that respond to the economic and social needs of each country;

20. *Promote* and adopt progressive fiscal policies, allocate budgets with a gender perspective and implement specific financing mechanisms to ensure sufficient, non-transferable, sustainable resources that cover all levels and areas of public policy aimed at reversing gender inequalities and guaranteeing the rights of women, adolescents and girls, including the right to care, in particular for those living in poverty or subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence;

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

22. *Emphasize* the need to mainstream a gender and intersectional perspective in sustainable development policies, international climate finance and funding for disaster risk management and reduction, and to significantly increase financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries, ensuring that such resources are additional to official development assistance, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and also ensuring enhanced access to such funding in order to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, including funding for women's and feminist organizations;

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

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

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

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

27. *Urge* the developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, and to cooperate in building and strengthening capacities with a view to accelerating the application of the Regional Gender Agenda and the commitments undertaken at this sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

28. *Encourage* the international community and promote partnerships to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women, adolescents and girls, and to protect the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, improving the progressiveness of tax systems, promoting access to financial services, enhancing productive capacity, and medium-sized enterprises and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all as part of a just transition;

29. *Promote* the representation of Latin American and Caribbean countries, with delegations composed on the basis of parity, in global economic governance institutions that design and implement international norms on finance, trade and debt, and ensure that these norms are consistent with women's human rights;

30. *Strengthen* regional cooperation to combat tax evasion and avoidance and illicit financial flows, and improve tax collection from the wealthiest and highest-income groups by introducing corporate income, wealth and property taxes, among others, in order to have greater resources for gender equality policies, including care policies and systems;

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

32. *Reject* unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls and hinder the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment and autonomy of all women and girls, and promote the adoption of measures for eradicating poverty, strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

33. *Emphasize* the need to strengthen international development cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the reduced access to official development assistance and concessional finance for countries in the region, including middle-income countries and small island developing States, call upon the developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance targets, and recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to create the necessary enabling environment at all levels for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, including national and local efforts, as well as international and regional cooperation that support policies and programmes to increase investment in gender equality policies, women's rights and sustainable development;

34. *Strengthen* regional and international cooperation for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, misogyny and racism in all their forms and dimensions to ensure the rights of all women, in particular Afrodescendent and Indigenous women;

35. *Foster* transparency and accountability with regard to resources allocated for gender equality under financing for development, peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts in Latin American and Caribbean countries provided through cooperation and other innovative financing mechanisms;

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

37. *Express* solidarity with women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity in conflict situations around the world and who are disproportionately affected by them, and urgently call for dialogue and for the promotion of respect for human rights and multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law and to maintain international peace and security, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

38. *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-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

39. *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 agreed conclusions that will be adopted at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

40. *Congratulate* the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, for its contributions in moderating the regional consultation prior to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request it to convey this declaration, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-eighth session.