



Consulta Regional para América Latina y el Caribe

Desafíos y logros en la aplicación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio para las mujeres y niñas.

Declaration of the Mechanisms for the Promotion of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean prior to the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

**Mexico City
7 February 2014**

We, the Ministers and High-level Authorities responsible for public policies on behalf of the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered together in Mexico City on 6 and 7 February 2014 at the invitation of Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and Mexico's National Institute of Women and with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in a consultation prior to the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the priority theme of which is "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls." We met with the aim of encouraging a constructive dialogue, identifying common problems, and reviewing, from a gender perspective, the results, lessons learned, and challenges involved in achieving compliance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with a view to making recommendations to guide the negotiations of the "Agreed Conclusions" of the Commission's 58th Session and thus contribute to the formulation of the new Post-2015 Development Agenda:

We reaffirm our commitment to the enforcement of the international instruments for protecting and defending the human rights of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), and the recommendations formulated by their oversight agencies. We also reaffirm our commitment to the international and regional framework for human rights;



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We insist on the full implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); of the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994); of the Program of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001); of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007); and of the agreements reached at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012);

We reaffirm our commitment with the implementation of the agreements reached in the consensus of the Regional Conferences on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (including the one held in Santo Domingo in 2013), and of the Montevideo Consensus adopted at the First Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (2013);

We endorse the Special Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equity and the Empowerment of Women in the New Post-2015 Development Agenda, adopted at the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Havana, Cuba, in which it was agreed, *inter alia*, to reiterate the interest of the CELAC nations in incorporating the gender perspective as a crosscutting element in the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, to empower women and achieve gender equality as determining factors in ensuring inclusive public policies in order to overcome poverty, to reduce and eradicate violence, and to attain the economic and social development of our peoples, and also eliminating the historical and structural factors that perpetuate gender-based discrimination;

Considering that the 58th Session of the CSW offers a historic opportunity to assess the achievements and identify the challenges since the adoption of the MDGs to attain substantive equality between women and men, and to contribute to the debates that are taking place at the national, regional, and global levels regarding the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Recalling that the CSW plays an essential role in the follow-up, examination, and evaluation of the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at all levels;

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women are *essential* requirements for attaining a truly sustainable development;



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Considering the efforts made by the region's governments to place a top priority on compliance with the MDGs and their commitment to the formulation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as can be seen, *inter alia*, in the 23rd Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government (Panama City, 2013), in the 29th Regular Assembly of the Latin American Parliament (Panama City, 2013), and in the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Havana, 2014);

Considering the major contribution made by feminist and women's movements and civil society organizations in placing the interests, needs, and vision of women on national, regional, and international agendas, and the achievements, challenges, and efforts of gender mechanisms in working for policies of equality;

Recognizing the importance of resolved political will, gender-sensitive institutions, good governance, and inclusive and plural economic and social policies with a human rights approach and gender perspective for attaining the MDGs and for implementing all the human rights obligations and commitments assumed by States under the CEDAW, the Convention of Belém do Pará, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and other instruments;

Reiterating that sustainable development, democracy, and the promotion and respect of all human rights demand the full participation of women in all areas, which contributes to the definition, execution, and monitoring of public policies that include special measures and effective actions in favor of equality, nondiscrimination, and social inclusion;

We agree to promote, either collectively or in accordance with the national capacities of the region's countries, in the discussions and negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions of the 58th Session of the CSW, the following recommendations that are a part of the vision of Latin America and the Caribbean:

To recognize the States' commitment to strengthen policies, plans, and programs in pursuit of the MDGs from a gender perspective – in line with other development platforms and the human rights framework – and to identify the lessons learned with a view to preparing the Post-2015 Development Agenda;



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To recognize that almost fifteen years after the adoption of the MDGs, while they have been an important front for reducing poverty and of key importance to the international community, there are still massive gaps of inequality between women and men. There are also shortcomings in their formulation as regards priority topics for gender equality; and that the indicators for monitoring those objectives do not provide a comprehensive perspective of the situation faced by women and girls at every stage in their lives. A development and goals approach that recognizes the holistic nature of the objectives is therefore necessary;

Promote and ensure the implementation of gender mainstreaming and its intersection with perspectives on race, ethnicity, age, social class, migration, and disability status in all public policies, with national legal frameworks, especially in the economic and cultural arena, and coordination between branches of government and social stakeholders, including organizations of young, Afro-descendant, or indigenous women, to ensure gender equality;

Any new generation of goals adopted in the Post-2015 Agenda must seek to be: first, transformative, and tackle the factors that constrain sustainable development; second, universal, applying to all countries regardless of economic status; and third, rights-based, addressing equality, incorporating equality – including gender equality – and women’s rights and the empowerment of women; in addition, they should be high-impact and cost-effective.

The new Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs must build on the lessons learnt, by directly tackling both the unequal power relations between men and women and the gender stereotypes that impede sustainable development and discriminate against women and girls. They must fully integrate gender mainstreaming across all goals and targets that are developed and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; They must also address the broader context for the realization of gender equality, such as the impact of economic crises, violence, persistent conflict, climate change, and environmental degradation; and they must be relevant to the contexts of small island developing states as well as of middle-income countries. The new development agenda must also build stronger institutions, a more participatory and effective governance, and greater accountability to deliver evident change for women and girls.



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We call for a transformative and comprehensive standalone goal based on substantive equality together with the integration of a gender perspective in all other goals, targets, and indicators. This standalone goal on gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment must address three critical dimensions:

- 1) Ensure women and girls a life free of all forms of violence and discrimination.
- 2) Ensure gender equality to promote capacity building and resource distribution, in:
 - A. Environment, education, good health, sexual and reproductive health, and sexual and reproductive rights under the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Montevideo Consensus adopted at the First Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America (2013), according to existing national legal frameworks;
 - B. Access to land, credit, information technologies, social security, decent work, equal pay for work of equal value, and universal care services, to build women's social and economic security and autonomy.
- 3) Gender equality in decision-making in all public and private sectors, as well as in the household. Increased efforts are needed to ensure women's equal participation in all spheres, including in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of power, in local government, in the private sector, in the media, and within political parties.

Equality, no more, no less.

Human rights for all women and girls, no more, no less.

In order to contribute to strengthening the position of our governments in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 58th Session of the CSW, we commit ourselves to convey this declaration to our respective Foreign Ministries.

We value the participation of the attending Latin American and Caribbean countries and civil society representatives, as well as the results of the consultation, and we express our gratitude to the host country of Mexico and to UN Women for organizing this regional consultation.

Adopted in Mexico City, 7 February 2014.