25 years from the
Beijing Platform of Action

LIGHTS & SHADOWS

Alternative report of the Civil Society from Latin America and The Caribbean

GENERATION EQUALITY

BEIJING +25

NGO CSW
Latin America / Caribbean
America Latina y el Caribe

With de cooperation of

UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

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ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BEIJING + 25: LIGHTS AND SHADOW

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Acabemos la violencia contra la mujer y el VIH/SIDA YA! (Global).

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FOREWORD

This report was written before the serious conflicts broke out in different countries of the region. Therefore, we need to refer to this situation and clarify, as feminists and activists of women's and girls' rights, that we have been concerned for years about the development model which is a long way from transforming and, in fact, has been intensified in our countries. It has led to a strong polarization of a great amount of the population who has to share a minimum part of the production, while most of the resources and wealth are in the hands of a small group. The increase of economic, political and social inequality, reported in our countries and denounced by ECLAC, inevitably affects the democratic stability of the region and has paved the way for the reactions seen in our countries.

Undoubtedly, the region has made advances in acknowledging human rights and, in particular, women's rights materialized, in some cases, in the improvement of internal regulations and/or the explicit acknowledgement of such rights. However, the last events taking place around the world jeopardize these gains. The Latin American women's movement has been characterized by its capacity building, the contribution of proposals and a significant political and social advocacy. This is reflected in the Montevideo Consensus, the agreements around the Beijing Platform of Action, the articulation promoted in terms of sexual and reproductive rights, gender identity, care economy and the participation in political parties, among other core areas of concern. For us, these advances have implied putting on center stage the debate on sustainability of life, a concept that questions the current development model, one increasing the gap between the richest and the poorest population, as well as social and cultural inequalities between women and men, and which, above all, exacerbates the disadvantages women and girls face in accessing and enjoying the benefits from development.

The feminist proposal has always been associated with the construction of equal and inclusive social, political and economic models, aiming at redistributing the wealth and gains from development, in equal conditions, and putting people and the creation of fair relationships between them and nature at the center of those models. In the last decades, many of our countries have attempted to build economic models promoting sustainability of life and redistribution of wealth, as response to the demand of women and peoples, advances now threatened by economic interests that favor the exploitation of natural resources, the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few, and limit the observance of human rights enjoyed by all people, especially by women and girls.

Given this situation, the evident political and economic conflicts in the region have focused on the struggle over the access and exploitation of natural resources. These conflicts question the weak democratic models in force in our countries and undermine the confidence of the population in governments, institutions and their environment. We observe a regression in the exercise of women's rights, reinforced by anti-rights movements claiming the use of violence and repression and justifying the persecution and criminalization of women advocates for human rights by favoring the exploitation of natural resources and violating indigenous communities and peoples.

The challenges of the region are associated with further changes in the economic models in terms of redistribution and exploitation of natural resources to close the inequality gaps and substantially improve the distribution of wealth and the opportunities for well-being. The observance of democracy is impossible with economic models supporting the concentration of wealth and the strengthening of fundamentalism, authoritarianism, and anti-rights movements that question the advance of human rights, especially of women's rights.

In this context, the Latin American and Caribbean feminist movement of plural and diverse women is vigilant and join in the region's outcry over respect for democracy and life: NOT ONE STEP BACK!

January 2020

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth Conference on Women held in Beijing, where 189 countries adopted the Beijing Platform of Action — PoA — as the framework for policies towards gender equality and women's and girls' rights. Now, the PoA boosts the efforts for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes gender equality as one of its strategic goals.

In these 25 years, the region has undergone many significant changes in all spheres affecting the lives of women and girls. Some have meant advances in the exercise and enjoyment of rights; however, there are persisting structural patriarchal factors in the social, economic, and political organization that limit their extension. Even in many cases, we observe with concern some regression in the achievements made.

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most unequal regions of the world, an inequality that replicates among countries of the region and within them. Although at the beginning of the century some minimum advances were made, they are now at risk [1]. Structural inequality — measured by aggregated indicators — worsens if the analysis acknowledges the intersectionality and addresses gender, race/ethnic origin, and age. The findings always point out more disadvantageous conditions for women, especially girls, young and elderly women, rural, Afro-descendant, indigenous, and transgender women in particular in terms of their personal security and access to health and justice, decent work, and economic assets.

In the last five years, the region has slowed the economic growth and the dynamisms of labor markets, apart from a stagnation in the decrease of income inequalities as recorded in the region and countries in 2002-2014 [2]. This implies an increase in poverty and a step back in the advances to diminish it. Moreover, the record confirms the concern stated in the Civil Society Declaration on the Regional Consultation for CSW 63 in relation to the return of neoliberal, pro-market economic policies that fuel a development model based on extraction and capital accumulation, something incompatible with the sustainability of life.

In this framework, several countries of the region — Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Puerto Rico — have introduced austerity measures and tax adjustments that modify and reduce the scope of social protection services — contributory and non-contributory — in terms of health, care for violence against women and girls, among others, that impact women more frequently as they are more linked to protection networks managed by the state [1].

Some countries in the region have their peace and democracies threatened and are home to violations of women's and girls' rights, including the right to security and personal integrity. They also face persecution, the assassination of women human rights advocates, displacement, and forced migration (which mainly affects women and their children), as the most dramatic expressions of violations of rights. Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the highest rate of femicides/feminicides and where women express to have the highest levels of perception of physical insecurity [3].

Conservative visions on politics and religion have spread in the region and, from the governments and/or society, they limit basic women's and girls' rights, as access to sexual and reproductive health, including access to contraception methods, legal and safe abortion, and comprehensive sexuality education. They also reinforce stereotypes, arguing the rejection of "gender ideology", denying the acknowledgment of people's gender diversity and identity.

Nevertheless, the region has advanced in the institutionalization of gender in the state sphere, creating rules towards equality in the labor field and gender-based violence. Many countries have increased the political participation of women in the three branches of the government and the judicial power, improving the situation in the countries in terms of gender equality.

Undoubtedly, the participation and advocacy of the feminist and women's movements in the region had (and still have) a significant impact in the extension of opportunities and guarantees of the rights for the diversity of women and girls. They were (and are) vital in the visibility and denounce of the multiple violations of the rights that impact their lives.

This report presents a perspective from the diversity of groups, NGOs and women's and feminist's networks of the region, including the value given to the advances and regression, as well as the pending

issues and challenges related to gender equality and the full guarantee of the exercise of women's and girls' rights that the PoA suggested 25 years ago. The proposals and recommendations are an input to the debates and recommendations that will take place in the regional preparatory meeting and then, in the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020.

SIX CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

1. Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

The reality of the region is characterized by a development model based on extraction and accumulation of capital, affecting the sustainability of life. The region shows lower yields of the extraction model, intensification of tax restriction and of external balance, an increase in the privatization of social services, the decrease of tax and labor standards to attract investments, and the decrease of political space for the implementation of socio-economic redistributive policies [4].

This model has serious consequences in the lives of women and girls, especially those living in rural areas, many indigenous women, for whom the expropriation of territories (land, natural resources and livelihood) and forced migration characterize their relationship with the real economy. For indigenous women, the preservation of the environment is strongly linked to their situation in terms of poverty[1].

For the inclusive development of women and girls of the region, the universal access to quality food is extremely important but is limited by trade and financial mechanisms in food management. In order to promote food sovereignty, these mechanisms must be eradicated, as well as the defense of territories and the livelihood of rural population where women are key actors.

Government corruption, a pervading phenomenon in the countries of the region, generates the diversion of significant funds devoted to social programs, many for the support of women and girls, in all their diversity. In addition, there are corrupt practices among lower level officials who, in order to provide the corresponding care to women and girls, resort to sexual extortion. Anti-corrupt policies must have a gender and human rights perspective.

In spite of its importance for inclusive development, the labor market continues to be a vertically and horizontally segmented sphere, not permeable for gender equality. It is organized (and perpetuated) under a sexual division of labor that relegates women to unpaid reproductive tasks and proposes their participation by performing low qualification and low productivity tasks, under unstable conditions, precariousness and informality, with low wages, and by being involved in activities frequently seen as "extensions" to domestic work.

The activity rate of women and men in the region shows a difference of more than 20% (74% for men, 50% for women) [5]. A similar inequality is seen in urban unemployment, which in 2018 was 2% more for women [5]. This means women are over-represented among those who do not have an income of their own.[2]

The sexual division of labor accounts for the fact that 43.3% of women between 20-59 years old in the region consider motherhood and unpaid care work as one of the main reasons for not actively looking for or holding a position in a paid employment. There still exists an unequal and unfair distribution of care tasks. Women spend two thirds of their time on unpaid work and one third on paid work; the opposite situation applies to men [5]. Girls also suffer the burden of care tasks. In Colombia, girls devote 19 hours weekly to care tasks, while boys only spend 8 hours.

Due to the high levels of labor informality and precariousness and the lower number of hours worked, most working women lack basic social protection in case of maternity or disease and do not have access to retirement. In six countries, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico and to a

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[1] In indigenous populations in Peruvian Amazonia, where there is extraction activity as mining and illegal logging, and where there is little presence of state-owned institutions, child trafficking is common.

[2] In Chile, more than 75% of people of 15 years old and more, with no income of their own are women. Employed women laborers have wages that account for 83.9% of men's wages [1].

lesser degree, Colombia, the participation of women in *maquiladoras* companies — renowned for their poor working conditions — is very important. In Guatemala, *maquila* women workers are fired on the ground of pregnancy and they lack social security for maternity. Their contract is terminated before the trial period, their wages are lower than those allocated for agricultural and non-agricultural activities, their right to unionizing is constantly vulnerable, and organizations are persecuted [6].

Although most countries advanced in formal actions to eradicate discrimination and violence in the workplace, including labor harassment, in Mexico, one in three women suffer any type of this violence daily. In Guatemala, sexual harassment is a generalized problem in the workplace and the country does not have a legal framework, or a care protocol, nor actions of social communication for awareness [6].

Leveraging the rights of domestic women workers is a pending debt. Only 15 countries of the region have ratified the ILO 189 Convention[3]. In Guatemala, they have a ratification bill. By 2015, only six countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador y Costa Rica had passed laws on equality in terms of rights for household work [7], but the percentage of women workers registered is still very low; only Brazil reports an increase in the amount of women registered and an even lower amount of those unionized.

Aggregated data hides the differences in the relation of women with the labor market. Apart from the lack of combined analysis considering ethnic origin/race, it also makes invisible the joint effects of gender and racial discrimination affecting indigenous and Afro-descendent women.

Indigenous women, frequently forced immigrants, who are pushed by discrimination and misinformation, have informal Jobs with long working days, something that undermines their rights. In Mexico, 90% of domestic workers are women, and among them, the number doubles for indigenous women and even triples for nonindigenous women. For these women who are subjected to intersectional discrimination, the conditions of precariousness, informality and segmentation of positions are worsened, and so is the subsequent lack of social protection [8].

Afro-descendent women have worse jobs compared to white/mestizo women, are over-represented in paid domestic jobs, and have difficulties in accessing more qualified employment due to social perceptions about them which label them under the category of domestic workers. Although they enter the labor market at an early age and leave it later than the rest of women, they have lower rates of affiliation to retirement systems than non-Afro-descendent women.[4]

Rural and farmer women share characteristics with their indigenous and Afro-descendent women. Those devoted to agriculture have low access to means of production, as land, water, seeds, supplies, and the quality of lands they manage is low [9]. Those who develop ventures have less access to financial products compared to men. In general, the jobs of women rural workers are not recognized as it is considered as an extension of their domestic work, therefore, they do not receive a wage or any other benefit.

Sex work is only recognized in Uruguay, therefore, those who practice it suffer multiple violations of their human rights. Women in a situation of prostitution are affected by discriminations and undermining of their rights. Although the discussion of social work/prostitution is pending, we cannot accept that any woman be discriminated for her sex work or practice, or that their rights be denied. We reject all forms of discrimination and/or violation of women's rights, regardless of their occupation or practice of selling sex for subsistence.

Uruguay is the only country in the region that has set a sex work regulation with a sanitary approach. In the rest of the countries, there are different regulations criminalizing sex work-related actions, and those who perform it suffer multiple violations of their rights and are forced to do it in poor, unsafe and violent working conditions.

Women involved in prostitution are affected by discrimination and multiple violations of their rights. A lack of regulatory framework that considers the different aspects of this type of sex work or practice reinforces such discrimination and violation of their rights, and this is unacceptable under any circumstance, regardless of women's occupation.

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[3] Information according to:
 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11300:0::NO::P11300_INSTRUMENT_ID:2551460
[4] In Panama, Afro-descendant women are the less benefited among the poor in terms of income, and their wage is lower than men's (Afro and non-Afro-descendants), even when women have a higher educational level compared to them.

Transgender women have barely any access to formal employment, due to prejudices and the lack of documentation that accounts for the identity with which they perceive themselves. This relegates them to sex work in order to live by; in 2016-2017 only 15% had a formal job, in which they suffered some form of violation of their rights [10].[5]

Self-employment is important in the region as 26% of workers are self-employed with major differences among countries. This self-employment must not be confused with formal entrepreneurship with some sort of social protection. Many times, this is just a mere means of subsistence with low income, something known as *rebusque* or the wit to get around the obstacles to survive.

The promotion of entrepreneurship as incentive policy for female economic autonomy is frequent in the region in both rural and urban contexts. Although there are incentive programs and credits for women entrepreneurs, companies are low-scale and there is no impact assessment on women's autonomy and poverty reduction.

The financial inclusion also shows inequality indicators. Only 50.6% of women have a bank account, almost 6% less than men. Women receive credits for low amounts and at higher costs as they do not hold assets to use as guarantee and they develop low-profitability activities [11]. In contexts of economic crisis, as the one the region is currently undergoing, women often take credits to afford the reproduction costs instead of acquiring assets, creating a debt cycle that prevents them from pulling out of poverty [5].

Over the last five years, there was practically no recognition for care work in national regulation and its incorporation in national accounts. Some countries report gender-sensitive budgets with poor results. The policy of co-responsibility between men and women in care tasks show very few advances in maternity and paternity leave and the alternate use of those leaves. In 2018, Peru extended paternity leave, and Mexico, in the same year, granted a work permission for fathers and mothers in order to make them both participate in the educational processes of their children. The use of paternity and/or alternate leave still requires awareness. In Chile, a recent study found that after 7 years of implementation of the Post-Natal Act for parents which allows the benefit to be transferred to fathers, only 0.23% of initiated permits accounted for transfers to men.

A greater development of care services totally or partially financed by the state has been registered, especially in terms of childcare. In spite of the advances achieved in the care are, there is still much to do in order to reach a more egalitarian distribution between women and men, which implies a negative effect on the participation of women in the labor market.

2. Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

The achievements in the reduction of poverty and inequality registered in the region since 2000 have reversed and are in serious risk of regressing more [1]. The context in the region is characterized by the application of adjustment plans and tax austerity in many countries, especially related to the external debt that affects the future of several generations, as it is the case of Argentina, Brazil, and recently Ecuador. The Plurinational State of Bolivia is the only country in the region that increased its budget for social intervention, while in Brazil disinvestments give an account of the regression in social protection and sustained increase of inequality, with levels similar to the ones seen 17 years ago.

The region is going through a humanitarian crisis, like the one in Venezuela, in which 94% of the households do not reach the minimum livelihood conditions according to a study carried out by universities in the country. There are massive migrations, situations of instability and political conflicts, some of them armed conflicts, as the ones affecting Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia, the Northern Triangle of Central America and Nicaragua, and economies seriously affected by the consequences of climate disaster, such as the hurricanes in Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Guyana, Puerto Rico, among others. All of them are factors, which in many cases combine, leading to greater impoverishment of the

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[5] In El Salvador, those women who are not sex workers, have informal jobs as seller or trader and almost one fifth of them are unemployed [10].

population — especially female population —, reductions in the social protection networks, and forced migrations between countries and between rural and urban contexts.

Today the region is the second with the lowest performance in terms of the proportion of the population living under the poverty line, and Honduras[6], Guatemala and Mexico are the countries that show the worst rates. If we take into account the capacity of women to buy the food they and their families need, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Jamaica, are the countries the worst situations.

The expansion of physical infrastructure: running water supply, sewage, public transport and others, still registers important deficits, impacting women's lives, who in many cases help cover the social basic infrastructure with their time and unpaid work.

Rural population accounted for about 21% of the region's population in 2015; today almost half are women and an important portion of them are indigenous. Many are forced to stay or migrate from their towns due to poverty and violence situations [9]. For rural indigenous women, migratory processes have multiple causes, like territorial insecurity, climate crisis, lack of employment opportunities, armed conflicts and violence.

The situations of poverty and indigence, especially of households that are home to girls, boys and pregnant women, are still addressed, in most countries of the region, by Conditional Transfer Programs (CTP), a privileged form of non-contributory social protection[7]. In Argentina, the Universal Allowance per Child and Universal Allowance for Pregnancy have been extended to self-employed workers who are formally registered as tax payers, improving their social protection of boys' and girls' dependents of self-employed workers.

The CTPs have had a positive impact on the decrease of child labor and the reduction of indigence in some countries. In spite of the advances in child labor reduction, this is far from being eradicated. In 2018 in Colombia, 796,000 boys, girls, and adolescents were victims of child labor and in the same year in Ecuador, 201,634 boys, girls, and adolescents of 5-14 years old worked, a figure that doubles compared to 2014. There are neither advances in relation to unpaid domestic work among children. In Chile, some official data from 2018, shows that 335,000 boys, girls and adolescents of 9-17 years old, out of which 59.4% are girls, were performing domestic tasks that were hazardous due to their excessive duration; nevertheless, only child labor was considered, where there were more boys than girls. In Brazil, 94.1% of the children who carry out unpaid domestic work are girls. In Brazil, in the articulation of policies of child education, the CTPs contributed to the reduction of illiteracy and child/Young labor in millions of children and adolescents, but nowadays budget cutbacks in programs mean that millions of people return to indigence and children and adolescents are expelled from the educational system.

In spite of the positive impact of CTPs, in many cases, they reinforce the role of women as caregivers who bear the burden of complying with health checks and child school attendance and exclude a great number of women in situation of poverty or indigence who do not raise young children.

Among indigenous women, the CTPs do not take into account its definition of well-being and development, altering the social thread of the communities and increasing their work overload. They may even have a negative impact on health and food sovereignty. Moreover, they face obstacles to access social protection systems because they do not have identity cards. In Peru, 58% of indigenous women did not have ID in 2017.

Education is a key factor for social inclusion and, therefore, for the reduction of inequalities. Countries in Latin America have reduced illiteracy rates; however, it is one of the most serious situations of exclusion that primarily affects women. The indicators of human development highlight an extraordinary advance in the expected years of schooling and the average years of schooling in the region, and, at the same time, they signal the persistence of inequalities between women and men. Among them, there is the gender gap in school enrolment in adulthood, which is closing in the first years of education. The rate of boys and girls who do not attend primary school has reduced to 43%, a number that has stagnated, but does not show improvements in the last decade.

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[6] For many years, Honduras has been one of the six countries with extreme poverty in the world.

[7] An example of this are: Juana Azurduy Bonus, Prenatal Universal Allowance "Por la Vida" and Juancito Pinto Bonus for students in Bolivia; financial aid "Bolsa Familia" in Brazil; "Mas Familias en Acción" in Colombia; monetary allocation based on the minimum income for protection in El Salvador; Social Bonus in Guatemala; "Juntos" program in Peru and a number of plural subsides and scholarships in Panamá; "Progresando con Solidaridad" in Dominican Republic; Universal Child Allowance–AUH– and Universal Pregnancy Allowance in Argentina.

A factor affecting the access of girls, adolescents, and women to education are the socio-economic, territorial, and ethnic inequalities. In 17 countries of Latin America, 95% of adolescent boys and girls (15-19 years old) from urban areas have completed primary education; instead, in rural zones only 86% of adolescents have completed it. ECLAC's statistics show evidence that more than 90% of indigenous children (6-11 years old) attend school, but less than 15% of indigenous girls (10-19 years old) finish secondary school. One in four adolescent girls who live in poverty and rural areas do not attend school.

Household activities, unpaid care work, and maternity are pointed out by 13% of girls and adolescents as the main reasons to drop out of school. According to UNICEF (2014), between 67% and 89% of adolescent mothers do not attend schools. On average, adolescents who have their first child during this stage have between two or three less years of education if compared to adolescents who did not have children.

In spite of the progress, childhood in the region is still facing obstacles in access to education. In Mexico, for example, indigenous children face significant cultural barriers, as in many countries in the region, public schools are still in Spanish, even in communities where only native languages are spoken. In Guatemala, girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities are excluded from schools, as they need to have public education centers near their homes to ensure their safety and didactic material that suits their cultural needs.

The strong segmentations and stratification of quality and efficiency of educational offer still characterize the region [5], which expels some population groups, like transgender women, who confront barriers in access and permanence in the educational system.

In spite of the female enrollment in higher education which surpasses male enrolment in all countries, women are still a minority in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. Chile is an extreme example of this trend, as they have less that 20% of female participation in those fields. This proves that they have not succeeded in modifying the gender pattern in the type of professional careers to which they have access. However, the access of women to higher education does not ensure them access to better paid positions, as there are reports accounting for less revenues for those attaining higher education [1].

Some governments have set goals for advancing on gender mainstreaming in the educational system which allows new nonsexist practices, inclusive and respectful of differences, including non-stereotyped content on comprehensive sexuality education, that makes visible the input of women in history and contributes to the prevention of harassment and violence against girls, women and LGBTIQ+ people. However, in the community there is a prevalence of conservative sectors, in many cases associated with religious institutions, seeking to influence public policies of several countries and focusing their efforts in attacking educational policies with gender equality perspectives and intervening in legislative processes and opposing the approval of bills, plans, and programs that recognize the rights of the diversity of the population and include comprehensive sexuality education[8].

In relation to forced child marriage and early unions, not all countries of the region have protocols that identify and address the causes of school dropout among girls and adolescents in primary and secondary education; among those countries are Honduras, Nicaragua and Jamaica. In addition, there are no measures to improve the educational achievements and results of girls and adolescents who are married or have a union and it is observed as an alarming trend in the absence of budgets for scholarships for girls and adolescents in countries such as Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and others.

The responses to child forced marriage and early unions must focus on the confidence that adolescents and young people have in their capacity to make decisions over their lives. Therefore, there is a need for laws and public policies that center on strengthening their autonomy and cultural change of social norms on gender that perpetuate discrimination and invisibility of girls as subjects of rights. It is the responsibility of the states to contribute to enabling contexts for better opportunities, empowerment spaces, and participation and development of the full potential for girls and adolescents.

During these last years, the countries of the region have intensively incorporated ICTs in their agendas, through technological immersion programs and equipment distribution in the educational systems; for

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[8] Under this current, in Brazil and Paraguay gender content has been eliminated; and in other countries such as Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Uruguay, among others, processes contrary to the implementation of Comprehensive Sexual Education actions have been promoted; violating the human rights of girls and adolescents.

example, through Educational Technological Resource Centers promoted by the Indigenous Development Fund in Guatemala. However, ICTs on their own do not create any change and neither ensure equality in any field. Access to technologies is key to access digital economy, information and training, financing and to be socially connected, however, in the region the gap of cell phone ownership is 5% less for women. It is alarming that there is no greater promotion on the knowledge of information and communication technology, as access to government services is increasingly promoted through electronic means, and women are the main users of those social services.

The advances reported toward the effective acknowledgement of sexual and reproductive health as an integral part of human rights have been stagnated (and in some countries have regressed) over the last five years.

The programs and plans specific of sexual and reproductive health implemented since 2000 in countries like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic have suffered retrogression in their implementation, as it was evidenced in Brazil and Nicaragua. In the region, the frequency of adolescent pregnancies is very high, both in adolescents under 15 as well as in the age group of 15-19 years old. Although some countries like Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico and to a lesser extent Peru have advanced in the implementation of plans and programs for adolescent pregnancy prevention, with diverse scopes and contents, it is alarming that countries with such high adolescent pregnancy rates have hampered or refuse to implement prevention programs and comprehensive sexuality education actions, as it is the case of Brazil.

Advocacy activities have been developed through studies carried out by the Sexual Health Observatory in Guatemala in 2015 [12] and by CLADEM in 2016 [13], which influenced up to the point of having pregnancy and child maternity considered as forced maternity and a violation to girls' human rights by exposing their lack of protection and extreme vulnerability rooted in their origins. This consideration has not yet permeated the legislative, social, and healthcare systems in most countries of the region.

There is a close link between pregnancy among girls and adolescents and forced child marriage and early unions; for example, in Mexico, girls who have a civil union and are aged 12-17 years old have had at least one child, compared to one in 100 girls who do not have civil unions. This has an impact on their health as there are risks related to early pregnancy. In spite of this, the region has not adopted enough measures for access to sexual and reproductive health of girls and adolescents, which are vital, especially when they are already in a forced child marriage or early union. Only eight countries mention them in plans for adolescent pregnancy prevention. Some of the factors affecting girls' and adolescents' health are the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services, the absence of comprehensive sexuality education, the lack of adolescent' friendly services that allow a change in gender roles, the existence of restrictive laws hampering safe abortions and the persistence of harmful practices, like child forced marriage and early unions, all of them increase the risks for life, development, and health.

Indigenous women suffer the violation of their right to practice and receive care according to their own indigenous health systems within the services offering Western healthcare, especially in the field of sexual and reproductive health. However, they are more likely to die during childbirth and pregnancy compared to other women. The underlying reason is that they face obstacles in access, as many of them live in rural and remote areas, care time is restricted and there is scarce qualified staff. Indigenous women are victims of obstetrics violence and discrimination by the staff, who lack knowledge of their culture and traditions, do not speak their language and consider them inferior. They are also neglected they right to give birth with the support of traditional midwives. In some countries, like Mexico, traditional indigenous midwives can work freely; in Guatemala, they cannot issue a birth certificate and women must go to hospitals were their traditions are not respected. In other countries, like Peru, in some areas, midwives are criminalized and persecuted.

Transgender women of the region encounter obstacles in their right to health, even in countries where there are specific inclusion policies, like Costa Rica, Uruguay and Argentina, which have the care protocol for transgender people of the Costa Rican Department of Social Security or the Gender Identity Act in Argentina and Uruguay. States must include in the national health system a comprehensive approach of the needs of transgender population, especially in terms of hormone therapy and body

adjustment to the self-perceived gender. This is a formal reality in Argentine laws[9], while in El Salvador this service was removed from the Gender Identity Bill on the grounds of lack of financial state resources.

Maternal mortality in the countries of the region continues to be linked mainly to problems in emergency obstetrics and unsafe abortion care. The total proportion of pregnancies in Latin America and the Caribbean that ends in abortion went from 23% to 32% between 190 and 2014. More than 97% of women in reproductive age live in countries with restrictive abortion laws and less than 3% of women of the region live in countries where abortion is legal on broad terms [14]. Cuba, Guyana, Puerto Rico and Uruguay are the only countries that authorize abortion unrestrictedly, although in Puerto Rico and Brazil there may be steps back in legislation, ignoring the de-criminalization of abortion on legal grounds.

Although in Beijing, the right to receive care according to current legislation was acknowledged, in many counties in which abortion is allowed on legal grounds, women and girls face obstacles in accessing such procedure effectively as it is the case of Argentina[10] and Bolivia[11]. In El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Surinam abortion is penalized under any circumstance; Chile was part of this list until 2017, the year in which it was permitted on legal grounds.

It is worrisome that in many countries of the region the development of public-private owned associations exist for the provision of healthcare, through which those services are progressively being privatized, resulting in a situation that creates profound inequalities. In practice, this means a segmented coverage in which poorer populations, and within them the most vulnerable groups, are only covered by inadequate public services, with fewer, lower quality, and deteriorated services, and with lack of supplies, while richer people access to more comprehensive coverage. Within privatized healthcare systems, women are more affected than men, as it is the case of Chile, where the private health system contemplates high rises in plans for women (more than 179% than for men) due to their reproductive capacity.[12]

3. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the highest rates of femicides/feminicides and insecurity experienced by women. Official data from the 24 countries of the region, which consider femicide in a heterogeneously way, show that at least 3527 women have been victims of femicides/feminicides in 2018. The countries with the most serious rates are El Salvador, Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala and Dominican Republic, in Latin America, and Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean [15]. Three of the countries in Latin America: El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala are undergoing active militarized political conflicts, have armed groups and trafficking networks, and are a risk factor for women's and girls' security. The high gender-based violence rates are directly related to other critical problems, such as a sexist judicial power, poor government accountability mechanisms, and scarce sound institutions [16].

For a significant number of women, femicides/feminicides overlap with gender-based violence and racism. For example, in Brazil the homicide rates of non-Afro-descendent women increased 4.5% between 2007 and 2017, while that of Afro-descendent women increased by 29.9%. This deadly form of violence also impacts people related to those women, who become victims as well, especially their children, who do not receive enough attention[13]. Transgender women also face this extreme form of violence, under the criminal definition of transvesticide or transfemicides, which have not yet been included in the legislation of countries, especially of those with scarce legislation on gender identity. In Argentina in 2018, the active advocacy of transgender people and human rights organizations was successful by making the assassination of transgender activist Diana Sacayan be deemed as

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[9] In Argentina, the National Gender Identity Act recognizes that transgender people have access to comprehensive health care: hormone therapy and surgical interventions, partial or total, being the informed consent of the interested party (...) the sole requirement in order to have those services covered by the healthcare system in each of its subsystems (public, social security and private).

[10] In Argentina, since 1921, the Penal Code recognizes the right of abortion in cases of health or life risk and of rape; due to the failure of compliance with the law, the Supreme Court ruled on the case named "FAL" to clarify on the matter.

[11] There are reports on the violation of the right in cases of rape, and women are forced to accept the newly born.

[12] Women pay more for pregnancy coverage and they even pay up to 170% more than men.

[13] In 2018, Argentina passed the act called "Brisa" of economic repair for orphans due to femicides/feminicides.

transvesticide, adequately adjusting the gender identity of the victim to the criminal definition of femicide/feminicide.

In spite of the efforts in some countries to implement care services for victims of violence, typically, care is insufficient, fragmented, difficult to access, and unreliable for some women. Legal repair is scarce because 98% of crimes go unpunished [3] and it is not very accessible, especially for indigenous women. For example, indigenous women victims of violence suffer serious limitations in the access to justice due to language barriers and lack of interpreters; in the cases where they do access to it, justice is slow.

Legal operators, security forces, and health workers are affected by gender stereotypes and prejudices that revictimize women and neglect them access to justice and due protection, many times putting their security at risk. An example of the violation of these rights is the recent denounce made by Venezuelan women regarding a young girl who was brutally beaten by her intimate partner, to whom officials from the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences denied the possibility of passing the legal medical exams to formalize the denounce under pretext that she was not adequately dressed to attended the institution. By denying assistance to a victim not only did they infringe the right of women to a life free of violence stipulated by law, they also exerted institutional violence. Taking into account the serious undermining of women's human rights by state operators, some laws to punish state officials who violate the rights of violence victims have been passed. Additionally, some laws aimed at training staff and officials were approved.[14]

Digital violence[15], or cyber-bullying, is presented as an extension of the structural violence women experience in their homes and community spaces, where the institutional response to provide care and punish these types of violence is deficient. In Mexico, authorities in charge of the Procurement of Justice are the main barrier, dismissing cyber threats on the grounds of their virtual nature. Women survivors of cyber violence have promoted legislative reforms and thirteen states finally included sanctions and twelve of them introduced it as a criminal definition.

Forced child marriages and early unions are harmful and are highly prevalent practices in the region and affect girls and adolescents disproportionately. They constitute a violation of their rights to health, education, equality, to a nondiscriminatory treatment, and to a life free of violence and exploitation. According to the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women, one in four girls gets married or has a union before the age of 18. The countries with the highest prevalence are Dominican Republic (41%), Nicaragua (41%), and Honduras (34%). In absolute figures, Brazil is the fourth country in the world with the highest number of married women under 18 and Mexico ranks seventh. In Guatemala, the national prevalence is 30%, while in rural areas the rate of women between 20-24 years who married before 18 years old is around 53%, and of those who married under 15 is 13%. In Dominican Republic, of the 41%, 35.9% of women between 20-24 years old expressed they have been married or had a union before 18, and 12.3% before 15 years old. Indigenous girls and youngsters of the region are particularly vulnerable to early unions and tend to get pregnant before the age of 18. According to Plan International and UNFPA, the prevalence of forced child marriages and early unions in Dominican Republic and Brazil is 36%, in Nicaragua 35% and Honduras 34%.

However, there is not sufficient data in all countries of the region. In Argentina in 2016, in an attempt to create evidence, FEIM carried out the first study based on census data, registering a considerable number of unions. Unions are informal, they neither recognized nor they have legal status, and there is a significant under-reporting that prevents the measurement of this phenomenon. Child forced marriages and early unions make girls and adolescents live with high levels of gender-based violence, such as sexual violence, as if it was natural. Comprehensive responses are needed to ensure a human rights approach, something that is missing in the region.

Contexts of natural disasters and the institutionalization of boys and girls and adolescents caused by those disasters are cases of institutional violence in the region.[16] [6]

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[14] Argentina passed the act called "Micaela", which makes training compulsory for all staff in different sectors and Bolivia passed a Supreme Decree with the same aim.

[15] Mexico: The coalition #InternetEsNuestra comprising organizations working for an Internet free of violence, express their concern for stigmatization of sexting (taking pictures, videos or messages with sexual or erotic content and its consented and free exchange between the people involved) in campaigns and legislative reforms that lack a human rights perspective and blame women who send this type of erotic content through electronic means, making them responsible for cyberharassment. This revictimization causes self-censorship and limits the right of women to freedom of expression as well as the exercise of their sexual rights.

[16] In Ecuador, cases of rape by civilians and members of the military in charge of shelters after the earthquake in 2016 were reported. In Nicaragua agents in charge of these institutions cause disasters as the burning of a girls' home, which caused 41 deaths in 2017.

4. Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

The participation of women in politics and access to public positions has increased over the past two decades, however, women who make decisions on political, economic, social, and cultural issues at national, provincial, and local levels are still a minority. Equality continues to be an aspiration.

In the legislative power, the advances have been encouraged by measures as the quota law. Only ten countries of the region have passed equality regulations with different scopes in terms of positions and level of government involved. At the global level, the region has the highest figure, in 2018, on average, women participating in single or lower chambers represented the 29.8%, even if in the Caribbean the average is only 19.5%. At regional level, the average of women in legislative power is 29.6% [15]. The increase in the number of women included in political decision-making spaces is not homogenous; indigenous and Afro-descendent women are under-represented in the judicial and legislative power.

In 2018, the average of female participation in the highest courts of justice in the region is 32.1%, although in several countries there no women at all in those courts. Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guyana, Paraguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela do not have female members in their highest courts of justice [15].

This is also observed in unions, private companies and the media. In micro-finance institutions in the region, women represent 53% of employees; however, on average, only 31% occupy influential positions in boards and just 18% of the presidencies of those boards. The level of participation is even lower in other sectors of the economy. [17]

The countries of the region have Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in some instances of the executive power. They are characterized by the diversity of their offices, the scopes, budgets and resources available, their relationship with the civil society and the possibility of advocating and coordinating with other dependencies of the executive power and governmental offices. In Latin America, 60% of countries have these types of Mechanisms at highest levels[17]; in the Caribbean, 84% of them still have a low level of institutionalization. Regardless of their status, the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women are still weak to influence or lead gender mainstreaming in public policies, even when most countries have some sort of plan related to equal opportunities or similar.

One indicator to verify the commitment of governments in relation to gender equality is the signature and ratification of CEDAW Optional Protocol; 18 countries have not yet signed it and three of them which did, have not yet ratified it [15].

The creation of data that is consistent, relevant, disaggregated, and coordinated with other governmental and nongovernmental bodies and complete in relation to issues that allow the assessment of the advances in gender equality are pending challenge. In order to achieve this, the region mobilizes a movement of women and feminists, with a broad agenda, that has promoted many of the achievements in terms of autonomy and improvement of quality of life of women and is still influencing on pending issues.

Indigenous women struggle for the fulfillment of 1989 ILO 169 Convention on indigenous and tribal peoples in order to exercise the right to prior consultation. The Convention is effective in 15 countries of the region.[18]

The scarce participation of women in the creation and dissemination of contents and in the management of media contributes to the dissemination of sexist content, which are prevailing in the region. For example, in Argentina, only 30% of people working in the media corporations are women, and only 22% of those corporations are led by women. Women become owners due to family bonds, creating small (digital) companies, or as part of civil associations. Among informal or part-time workers, most are women, and men are predominant in technical areas, while women are relegated to administration and cleaning tasks. Even areas such as politics, economics, energy, and sports are in the hands of men and society, show business, general information are in the hands of women.

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[17] With the Rank of Ministry of the head of it holds the position of Minister, fully participating in the cabinet of ministers. [15]

[18] Information according to:
https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11310:0::NO:11310:P11310_INSTRUMENT_ID:312314:NO

At the regional level, sexist and stereotyped content on women is frequent, and often combined with racist content. The approach to violence and femicides/feminicides tends to investigate and characterize victims instead of condemning violence. Only some countries, Argentina, Bolivia and Venezuela, include symbolic and media violence as criminal definitions.

In general, accountability by governments is little spread in the region. It is appropriate to train professionals from grassroots organizations to assess public policies and identify social issues affecting women in order to monitor the advances on the reduction of gender gaps.

5. Peaceful and inclusive societies

Some countries of the region see their peace and democratic cohabitation threatened. They experience violations of women's and girls' rights, including the right to personal security. The assassination of women advocates of human rights, and forced displacement and migration, related in many cases with a policy of extraction in terms of natural resource exploitation and human trafficking, are some of its dramatic expressions.

Nicaragua is undergoing a political crisis, marked by state violence against human rights advocates and other groups working to defend human rights. Women live in a permanent state of insecurity due to the increase of femicides/feminicides and violence against women, who do not find in state institutions neither protection nor repair.[19]

In Colombia, members of the Special Committee of Women published a call to preserve peace to ensure the gender approach in the implementation of the Final Agreement, putting an end to the armed conflict between the state and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Simultaneously, the group of indigenous women "Tejido Mujer Çxhab Wala Kiwe" in the North of Cauca reported the assassination of a candidate during proselytism activities.

In Mexico, there are reports on the seriousness of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation of Mexican and migrant women, especially in the North of the country. In Brazil, the false discourse of security increases the assassinations of the population residing in vulnerable and poor zones of the outskirts of metropolitan areas.

The most dramatic case is the one of Women Advocates of Human Rights in Mesoamerica. The situation is particularly critical for environmental, land, and sexual and reproductive rights and sexual diversity advocates. They work in hostile contexts. The recent criminalization and the lack of understanding of their role by the public opinion have contributed to worsen the situation and undermined their condition. They face an alarming increase of violence and disappearances in an increasingly militarized territory, in the continent with more inequality of the world. In addition, there is also a systematic and generalized increase of gender violence and violence against women, girls, and LGBTIQ+ population.

In the years 2015 and 2016, human rights advocates suffered 2,197 attacks in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras, most of them concentrated in the latter three countries. Attacks included the assassination of 21 women advocates, 44 attempts of assassination, 29 episodes of sexual violence, and 22 cases of torture, cruel, unhuman, and degrading treatment [18]. This is something that not only has not decreased but tends to increase and exacerbate.

The spread of anti-rights views, opposing the gender perspective, is affecting the inclusion and exercise of the rights of broad collectives. Only six countries of the region have legislation related to gender identity (Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and six Mexican states). In Mexico, between 2015 and 2019, six states passed legislation after a long struggle by the transgender collective, which have legal status and access to healthcare, education, employment, housing and political participation. In Guiana, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Jamaica and in subnational states, sexual intercourse between people of the same sex is criminally punished, and transgender people are criminalized due to their gender identity and expression.

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[19] Information according to:
https://contrahegemoniaweb.com.ar/70-dias-de-violencia-machista-contra-las-mujeres-de-nicaragua

In the region, migrations, forced or voluntary, between countries and within countries, for economic and political reasons are increasing due to the levels of violence and extraction model are a challenge for inclusion. Female migration, especially of young people and mothers, is a risk due because the scarce information and development of skills for employment, and the lack of knowledge of the host society expose these women to trafficking networks and sexual slavery. When indigenous rural migrant women arrive in the city, they are victims of multiple forms of violence and discrimination, and they are forced to give up their languages, way of life, and habits to avoid discrimination.

The region has a regulatory framework such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, complemented by CEDAW General Recommendation 26 and ILO Convention 189 for the protection of migrant women. This framework has been affected in some countries of the region due to regressive reforms in migratory legislation regarding the expulsion and criminalization of migrants and regularization procedures of migration, something that encourages the persecution and stigmatization, and obstructs the access to economic, social, and cultural rights. The report of organizations and collectives to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and its interventions on the issues reverted some of the legislation's effects.

The recently reported conflicts in several countries in view of popular claims as a response to economic, social and political measures, with its epicenter in Chile, coincide with the claims that the feminist movement and women have been calling for. These peaceful demonstrations were violently repressed by security forces and government authorities. We therefore demand that these repressive practices as response to popular claims, including the rape of women, be stopped, as they represent an infringement of human rights and are unacceptable for the existence of peaceful and inclusive societies.

6. Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Resource depletion, indiscriminate logging to expand arable land, and water pollution, among other practices, affect life and jeopardize livelihoods. Women are the most affected by the causes and consequences of climate change. In their role of caregivers, they face overload of tasks due to changes in resource availability.

In countries like Brazil, preservation of the environment in relation to the right of indigenous women to preserve land and resources they use as livelihood is being undermined in a context where the government ordered the territorial demarcation of land for agricultural exports, ignoring the burning of forests involved. In spite of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, indiscriminate logging still takes place in places like Bolivia and Brazil in order to expand arable lands and produce monoculture for export.

Over the last five years, feminist organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean have raised awareness to integrate gender perspectives and concerns in environmental policies, and there has been improvement in the public opinion regarding women's engagement in environmental issues. Many renewable resource companies in the region acknowledge the importance of including women in the design of renewable resource equipment. Many studies also recognize the gender gap in the consumption of resources in the region, as well as gender differences in opinions on climate change. Since the creation of the Global Environmental Facility (2011), the percentage of projects with gender perspective went from 16% to 91% in the region.

Several countries of the region have signed the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazu Agreement) on March 2018.[20] This is the first multilateral binding environmental agreement; it does not allow reservations and is the first in setting this type of guarantee. The agreement is based on the strengthening of three substantial rights for sustainable development, incorporates the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters, promotes the validity of instrumental rights, necessary and indispensable for the

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[20] The agreement is open for signature since September 2018.

protection of other rights, protects and safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups, seeking equal exercise and creating common protection standards to guarantee and implement rights.[21]

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHALLENGES

The representatives of NGOs and national, sub-regional and regional networks of women and feminist organizations **urge governments** to:

- Formulate specific commitments, allocate sufficient and gender-sensitive budgets, and strengthen public policies of gender equality to eradicate the multiple forms of ethnic/racial gender violence, with particular emphasis on the prevention of sexual violence and femicide/feminicide, and facilitating social monitoring, transparency, and accountability.
- Eliminate any form of repression in peaceful popular demonstrations/claims that involve violations of human rights and eradicate the rape of women and girls as repressive forms used by security forces.
- Sign and ratify all treaties that protect women's and girls' human rights comprised in the universal and regional systems, such as CEDAW and its Optional Protocol and the Convention of Belém do Pará, and fulfill the commitments made by governments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Beijing Platform of Actions and others, adapting the national legislation to fully guarantee the rights of women and girls in their diversity.
- Have national plans on gender equality that, as far as possible, define evaluation indicators, set periodic evaluations on their execution and include the recommendations to overcome the obstacles arising in their implementation.
- Affirm the secularity of the state to strengthen democracy, ecological and sustainable development, reaffirm the rule of law and the promotion of human rights, and ensure the equal participation and representation of women and girls in all areas of social, economic, cultural, and political life.
- Take urgent measures to protect and guarantee the safety of women human rights defenders who are persecuted, violated, and criminalized.
- Develop multidimensional national information and statistics systems with disaggregated, gender-sensitive, ethnic/racial, and intersectional approaches to assertively assess the quantitative and qualitative impacts on the gap reduction in women and girls, especially in socially and historically disadvantaged communities, foreign to specific public policies, such as Afro-descendant and indigenous populations.
- Clearly and effectively articulate gender perspective with disaggregated statistics in their mid- and short-term planning and budgeting processes.

I.   Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

- Rethink the development model promoting extraction and capital logic, and refocus it on human development, the sustainability of life, and the autonomy of women as a cross-cutting axis of national sustainable development strategies for medium and long terms.
- Develop and reinforce anti-corruption policies, with a human rights and gender approach, which particularly affects women, by diverting resources that could be allocated to improve the quality of life of historically discriminated groups, such as women and girls, the LGBTIQ+ community, people from indigenous and Afro-descendant groups, people with disabilities, among others.
- Eliminate structural inequality in the labor market, promoting full inclusion of women, through affirmative action policies to reduce labor segmentation (vertical and horizontal) and eradicate the differential impact of hourly underemployment, unemployment, and job insecurity.

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[21] The extended participation given to civil society both in the outline and the negotiation of the Agreement contribute to its value. Civil society has had a representation in the Negotiation Committee (integrated by countries) with the same right of countries in terms of having the floor and making proposals to be included in the Agreement's text.

- Eliminate the women's wage and employment gap, ensuring access to decent work in greater production areas, developing comprehensive and universal care systems and promoting co-responsibility of care, reconciling work life with family life, and other concrete measures.
- Ratify ILO Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers and Recommendation 201 to equate their rights and assure their benefits of social protection. Also adapt internal legislation and adopt policies in order to accomplish them.
- Ratify ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work and Recommendation 206 to guarantee the right of everyone to work free of violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.
- Eliminate legal and socio-cultural barriers to guarantee informal and self-employed women workers access to Universal Social Protection, including migrant, sex workers, indigenous and Afro-descendant women, women living with HIV, women with disabilities, among others who live in vulnerable situations.
- Ratify ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; take, in intercultural dialogue, the necessary measures for the implementation of prior consultation, guaranteeing the free and informed participation of women in relation to public policies and programs that affect them; and implement the content of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognize the work, contributions, knowledge, and practices of indigenous, farm-working, Afro-descendant and other women in the sustainable use of natural resources, the right to land (to the mainland and marine territory), and access to the sea and in the self-determination against extractive policies, to promote inclusive and sustainable development and eliminate their criminalization, creating funds that facilitate their participation in sustainable development models.
- Ensure the inclusion of marginalized women such as Afro-descendants, indigenous, disabled, urban and rural women, in employability services, entrepreneurship, productive resources, and financial assistance that enable their access in conditions of equity, and recognize their potential and territorial productive advantages.
- Develop public policies for the inclusion of unpaid work as protected figures in national accounts, as well as monitor and coordinate with the private sector to strengthen the labor supply for women, making their access permanent, and guaranteeing equal pay and participation in the labor market.

II.   Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

- Guarantee fiscal policies for substantive equality, eliminating gender biases in the tax system and promoting the incorporation of women's voices and priorities throughout the budget process, ensuring and promoting the financing of sufficient resources for the implementation of public policies to close gender gaps with an intersectional approach.
- Ensure social protection for women in poverty and their families, including their access to food, health, housing, and education for women, girls, children and adolescents, as well as the right to work for women in these populations.
- Guarantee access to public social services for farm-working, Afro-descendant, and indigenous women and children living in rural areas, ensuring services with cultural belonging that guarantee their right to legal identity through innovative programs and other measures such as financial aid and the creation of care centers (e.g. safe shelters and judicial protection institutions).
- Review the Conditional Transfer Programs to eliminate gender and ethnic/racial biases and stereotypes, and the negative impacts that these modalities have women, girls, and their families. Include also in these programs' women in poverty and indigence without children. Ensure that the provision of social protection, health, housing, and education services are not provided by private sectors, whose priority is profitability and not the guaranty of basic human rights. The state must finance, regulate, and control these services, ensuring their gratuitousness, quality, accessibility, availability and acceptability, ensuring an approach of human rights, interculturality and intersectionality, prioritizing women in vulnerable situations: elderly females, women sex workers, women institutionalized in psychiatric hospitals, and women deprived of liberty or in conflict with criminal law and their children and women involved in prostitution.
- Design and implement training and continuous education plans related to gender equality, women's rights, intersectionality and interculturality in all public institutions, including the legal system and security forces.

- Ensure effective access to education for all women and girls, including comprehensive sexuality education, and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, as well as their sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to legal, safe and free abortion.
- Ensure access to sexually diverse health services, primarily access to essential medicines (such as antiretrovirals) for women and girls living with HIV. Eradicate the discrimination these women experience in all areas, with particular emphasis on care at the time of pregnancy and childbirth and allocate sufficient budgetary funds to address the prevention of HIV transmission, particularly the vertical transmission, mother-to-child.
- Ensure access to quality, secular, public, and free education throughout life, at all levels, including higher education, with non-sexist, inclusive practices and content, respectful of the diversity of people, including indigenous languages, with a gender perspective and with an intersectional and intercultural approach, for all women and girls.
- Eradicate the stereotypes and barriers that impede women's educational progress after secondary education and improve initiatives aimed at their incorporation in careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- Promote platforms and technological networks that are easily accessible to people in poverty, to promote skills and capacities that will allow them to overcome the gap in marginalization and poverty, especially to Afro-descendant, indigenous and women and girls with disabilities, among others who are vulnerable.

III. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

- Take urgent action to protect the lives and safety of women, social leaders, human rights defenders, feminist journalists, and victims of political and armed conflicts and post-peace processes; and punish those who persecute, violate, and criminalize them. Develop models and mechanisms of comprehensive protection that address women human rights defenders in a particular way and recognize the violence experienced by women human rights defenders.
- Assume the commitment to eradicate the violence experienced by indigenous women throughout their life cycle and strengthen their policy frameworks. Understand the relationship between collective rights as peoples and women's individual rights; and consider the multiple violations they face (media, environmental, spiritual, community, and institutional).
- Protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural women of their traditional products and knowledge, and provide facilities for the conservation, distribution, marketing, and storage of these products, while respecting the right to food security and sovereignty.
- Take urgent measures to criminalize, combat, punish, and eradicate the crimes of human trafficking for purposes of sexual, labor, or other type of exploitation. These include ratifying international treaties and conventions and adapting their regulatory frameworks; disarming criminal networks and developing measures for the integral reparation of survivors, including rehabilitation.
- Recognize femicide/feminicide as a crime, including those of vulnerable and invisible populations, such as transfemicides. Modify policy frameworks and implement specialized justice that ensures gender-based investigations and trials and eradicates impunity by punishing the aggressors and protecting the children of murdered women and the people in charge of those children, ensuring their rights and non-cohabitation with femicide/feminicide culprit and their family.
- Recognize and eradicate media and symbolic violence against women, girls and transgender women, which condition their lives and limit their freedom of expression; implementing mechanisms of monitoring, regulation, and self-regulation to the media, with special attention to the mass media, to eliminate sexism and gender discrimination in its contents, actively promoting the dissemination of information and positive images for the diversity of women and girls
- Implement frameworks for algorithmic transparency, incorporating methods such as audits; eliminate cyberviolence and other forms of gender violence in the digital space, and develop gender-based digital and media literacy programs.
- Establish the gender perspective as a transversal axis in the curricula of all levels of education and promote academic research on all dimensions of the gender and communication agenda.
- Take action to prevent, treat, and eliminate Early and Forced Child Marriages or Unions (CEFM), such as laws and public policies for the approval of the legal age of marriage at 18 years, without waivers or exceptions; allocate budget for comprehensive care programs for girls in CEFM, including

social, judicial, and sexual and reproductive health services. Create enabling environments that promote autonomy and the generation of a cultural change of social gender norms, which offer alternatives and development beyond marriage or union.

- Eradicate early and adolescent pregnancy by implementing intersectoral and comprehensive policies and actions that ensure prevention, care, assistance and comprehensive reparation, particularly in pregnancies resulting from rape, recognizing forced child pregnancy as a form of torture, not forcing them to continue, and providing them with safe emergency contraception and abortion services.

IV. Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

- Grant Women's Advancement Mechanisms a higher hierarchical level, endorsed by the regulatory framework, to fulfill their role as governing and managing bodies of gender equality policies, and ensure gender equality mainstreaming throughout the structure of the state, with sufficient technical and financial resources.
- Institutionalize the participation of feminist organizations and of women representatives of the diversity of organizations in the Women's Advancement Mechanisms at all levels of government, ensuring access to information and transparency in decision-making processes, involvement in the development of proposals, including budgets, and monitoring and follow-up of programs and policies.
- Establish political training programs that ensure knowledge of rights, empowerment in decision-making, and the incorporation into spaces of social and political participation of women's diversity; especially indigenous, Afro-descendants, transgender women, women with disabilities, adolescents and young women, among others.
- Include vertical and horizontal parity and alternation in participation in all areas of political life, accelerating the inclusion of women in decision-making positions, recognizing the contributions of human rights defenders, incorporating sanctions into legal frameworks for political harassment and eradicating the limitations for political participation faced especially by indigenous, Afro-descendant, transgender women, women with disabilities, among others.
- Ensure the participation, visibility, and positioning of Afro-descendant and indigenous women in all spheres of power, through inclusive participation processes with an ethnic/racial and territorial perspective, given the marginalization that exists in all areas of power due to multiple gender biases that hinder their access.

V. Peaceful and inclusive societies

- Guarantee safe environments for women and children living in contexts of political conflict; and end the exposure of them and their children to state violence, armed groups, and trafficking networks, safeguarding their integrity and their lives.
- Redouble efforts and guarantee mechanisms to eliminate all forms of discrimination that reach the diversity of women and girls, especially the most vulnerable, also considering discrimination based on ethnic/racial belonging. Develop a roadmap to implement CEDAW and other international and regional policy frameworks with the participation of NGOs and grassroots organizations, feminists, and women's groups.
- Sanction national norms of gender identity to build more inclusive and egalitarian societies and protect the population in conditions of extreme vulnerability and exclusion, subject to multiple forms of violence.
- Increase the political commitment for the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (CRMW). Consider the portability of rights for the migrant population, by recognizing the qualifications, work, and contributions made in the countries of origin and destination; granting refugee status when migration is motivated by social conflicts, political instability, or economic crisis under the Cartagena Declaration.

- Develop broad awareness and training programs for civil servants/decision-makers, on the rights of indigenous women, Afro-descendants, farmworkers, among others, with the participation of other women representatives of the organized civil society for intercultural dialogue based on horizontality and mutual respect.

VI.   Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

- Ratify and comply with the Paris Climate Change Agreement and approve internal norms and policies with a human rights and gender perspective to address the impact of climate change.
- Sign and ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.
- Develop prevention programs against natural disasters and ensure the provision of basic social services to women, girls and boys in these emergency situations, especially in cases of sexual violence that appear in these situations.
- Prioritize women in their ethnic/racial and territorial diversity in the planning, design and implementation of reconstruction measures against disasters (natural and/or provoked), emphasizing food security and collective resilience, recognizing disproportionate impacts that women suffer in the face of different phenomena and natural and provoked disasters.
- Legislate and penalize those who do not comply with the protection of forests and promote indiscriminate or illegal logging for agricultural/livestock/mining or other exploitation, with the consequent forced eviction of indigenous, Afro-descendant, farm-working, and rural women from their territories.
- Recognize the contribution of indigenous peoples and women and grassroots organizations to combat climate change, with economic and technical support aimed at their own initiatives including spaces for registration and intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge; training and including indigenous women in climate change action funds, such as the Green Climate Fund; eliminating the linguistic, economic, and political barriers that hinder their participation in these spaces.
- Guarantee women's rights to land, water, and natural resources as essential components of public policies of food sovereignty and security, promoting agroecology and limiting/prohibiting the entry of transgenic seeds.

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