



**XIV Regional Conference
on Women in
Latin America and the Caribbean**
Santiago, 27–31 January 2020

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

Santiago, 27–31 January 2020

SANTIAGO COMMITMENT

The member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago from 28 to 31 January 2020,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, especially No. 100, No. 156, No. 169, No. 189 and No. 190, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and guarantee all the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality,



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Reaffirming the commitments assumed by States in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) (2014), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015),

Confirming the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that make up the Regional Gender Agenda and are included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977), the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001 (1994), the Santiago Consensus (1997), the Lima Consensus (2000), the Mexico City Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007), the Brasilia Consensus (2010), the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), and the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), and in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013),

Bearing in mind that, at their fifty-sixth meeting, held in Havana from 5 to 6 October 2017, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to “adopt women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios” as the main theme for discussion at the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,¹

Bearing in mind also the participatory process conducted in preparation for the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which contributions from the member States of the Conference, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements, were compiled and incorporated,

Concerned at the challenges that changing economic scenarios pose to the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of women’s rights, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region, agree to:

1. *Welcome* the document *Women’s autonomy in changing economic scenarios*² and commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, on its preparation;

2. *Also welcome* the *Regional progress report on the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*³ and commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the high-level panel on the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy;

¹ LC/MDM.56/3.

² LC/CRM.14/3.

³ LC/CRM.14/4.

3. *Further welcome the Regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Latin American and Caribbean countries, 25 years on*,⁴ commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on its preparation and acknowledge the achievements and progress made over the 25 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, as reflected in the national reports on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in four main areas: (i) progress in the formulation and adoption of laws and regulations that typify femicide or feminicide; (ii) the significant —albeit still insufficient— increase in women's participation in the decision-making spheres in the framework of the parity democracy approach enshrined in the Montevideo Strategy; (iii) the installation on the public agenda of the topic of care and unpaid work, as an integral part of social protection systems; and (iv) incorporating the gender approach in the institutional architecture of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level;

4. *Recognize* that women, adolescents girls in all their diversity are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization throughout their lives, and that it is therefore necessary to respect and appreciate their diversity of situations and conditions and acknowledge that they face barriers to their empowerment and to the exercise of their rights, and that it is necessary to adopt intersectional strategies to address their specific needs, affording particular attention to the feminization of poverty in the region;

5. *Take* all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender institutions and architecture through the prioritization of machineries for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming at the different levels of the State, increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources according to national realities, capacities and legislation, gender-responsive budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with a view to strengthening the implementation of equality policies in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Promote* the enactment and implementation of legislation, multisectoral policies, comprehensive action plans and education and sensitization programmes to prevent, address, punish and eliminate different forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescents and girls, including those with disabilities, in its various spheres: private, public, political, economic, institutional, symbolic and obstetric, and in situations of conflict, natural disaster and deprivation of liberty, as well as different types and manifestations, such as workplace harassment, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and exploitation, migrant smuggling, trafficking in women and girls, forced prostitution, rape, femicide, forced marriage and cohabitation imposed on girls and adolescents, in different spheres such as public safety and cities, legislation and access to justice, the media and educational content, and through stereotypes, sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia, lesbophobia, transphobia and discrimination, in accordance with national legislation, as well as forms of violence facilitated by technology, especially information and communications technologies and emerging technologies and over social networks;

7. *Foster* measures and mechanisms to eliminate legal, cultural, social and institutional obstacles, in order to ensure the right to a life free from violence and discrimination for women in all their diversity and throughout their life cycle;

8. *Promote* the elimination of legal and institutional obstacles in order to ensure women's effective access to prompt and expeditious justice and to end impunity, and ensure reparation and essential services in cases of violence, especially in the case of sexual violence;

⁴ LC/CRM.14/5.

9. *Also promote* universal access to and financing for comprehensive, accessible, affordable and good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity;

10. *Further promote* the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights in relation to: comprehensive sexual education and information; safe, good-quality abortion services, in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation; contraception; integrated social health-care services; maternal mortality; sexual orientation and gender identity; universal and accessible services; disability and old age; eradication of child pregnancy; prevention of adolescent pregnancy and motherhood; sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; health emergencies; healthy maternity; and technological development; as well as different forms of family in accordance with national legislation;

11. *Promote* the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that contribute to healthy and active ageing, including the gender perspective, as well as the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons and the development of health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing health systems;

12. *Encourage* continued efforts to increase the representation of women, including women with disabilities, in the decision-making process to achieve parity democracy, with an intercultural and ethno-racial approach, strengthening the presence of women in all branches, levels and spheres of government, guarantee the protection of the rights of women participating in politics, women human rights defenders and women journalists, and condemn political violence;

13. *Foster* measures to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and recovery, as established in Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

14. *Take* effective measures to reduce pay gaps for reasons of gender, race, ethnicity, disability and age, ensure the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and urge the public and private sectors to take measures in this respect;

15. *Adopt* measures to ensure the promotion and effective protection of the human rights of all domestic workers, as established in Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization;

16. *Foster* good-quality, timely and comprehensive secular education, free of stereotypes, without exclusion, and promote a culture of equality between women and men to dismantle patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns, recognizing that the secular nature of States contributes to the elimination of discrimination against women and the guarantee of human rights and freedom of religion, belief, worship and thought;

17. *Recognize* the cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contribution of indigenous languages and the role played by indigenous women and girls in the conservation and revitalization of languages as a means of recognition and dignification of indigenous peoples;

18. *Promote* public policies that include affirmative action measures to foster educational participation, progression and completion by girls, adolescents and women in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including information and communications technologies and emerging and sustainable technologies;

19. *Encourage* women's labour participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, eliminating occupational segregation and ensuring decent work and wage equality, in particular in emerging sectors, including the digital economy, that are key to structural change with equality and the decarbonization of economies;

20. *Foster* the generation of new jobs and opportunities for women through public-private partnerships, especially in emerging sectors of the economy;

21. *Promote* the development of a digital market in Latin America and the Caribbean as a public good, through regulatory adaptation to promote policy coherence and the integration of digital infrastructure, strengthening women's capacities and their full participation in the digital ecosystem in the region;

22. *Foster* financial systems that enable women, especially those with fewer resources, to access and use a diversified range of good-quality, affordable savings and credit products and services, including microfinance and insurance, provide technical support for strengthening women's productive enterprises and foster policies on financial education that is accessible and relevant, particularly for indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women;

23. *Strengthen* policies and mechanisms for regulating digital financial technologies at all levels of government and coordination systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to develop standards on records, content and uses of data across countries and to ensure the individual's rights to privacy and to personal data protection, and promote financial and digital education to ensure that women's financial inclusion is informed and fair;

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

25. *Measure* the multiplier effects of boosting the care economy in terms of women's labour market participation —including work associated with the traditional knowledge, art and culture of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women—, well-being, redistribution, economic growth and the macroeconomic impact of the care economy;

26. *Design* comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective that foster co-responsibility between men and women, the State, the market, families and the community, and include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services to meet the different care needs of the population, as part of social protection systems;

27. *Promote* measures, policies and programmes for the full engagement of boys, young men and men as strategic allies in achieving gender equality and in promoting and ensuring women's rights and their economic empowerment and autonomy, eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women, adolescents and girls, and foster policies for the equal sharing of domestic and care work between men and women;

28. *Also promote* a systemic change in the approach to migration to reduce the vulnerabilities of women in the migration cycle, and the adoption of cooperation agreements among countries of origin, transit, destination and return for migrant women, refugees and asylum-seekers, paying particular attention to displacement phenomena surrounding global care chains and their structural causes, and ensure human rights and decent working conditions, prevention and response to violence —especially sexual violence— and to people smuggling, and non-discriminatory access to health services and comprehensive social protection;

29. *Promote* the adoption of legislation on labour and taxation in order to operate in a coordinated manner at the regional level, avoiding harmful competition among countries, in order to prevent taxation, wage-cutting and gender inequalities being used as adjustment variables to increase exports and attract investment;

30. *Implement* policies and mechanisms to promote, strengthen and increase production and international trade, with a gender approach, as a pillar of countries' economic development, and pursue programmes to foster the creation of quality employment for women and female-led enterprise in international trade, conducting assessments of the impact on human rights of trade and investment policies and agreements from a gender equality perspective;

31. *Consider* the possibility of establishing a network between government and civil society representatives and businesswomen on practices and lessons learned on tackling gender gaps in the private sector, to contribute to women's empowerment and autonomy —particularly women heading small and medium-sized enterprises, with an emphasis on indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women and young businesswomen— and to reducing the feminization of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, fully respecting respect for the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (2011);

32. *Advance* in building a gender, intersectional, intercultural and rights perspective into national policies and budgeted programmes on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening women's participation and the inclusion of gender equality in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction;

33. *Integrate* the gender perspective into national policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, recognizing its differentiated effects on women, adolescents and girls, as well as on other groups in vulnerable situations, promote climate action respecting, promoting and considering the respective obligations with regard to gender equality, through strengthened coordination between machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change, planning, energy and human rights, among others;

34. *Actively support* the participation of women's organizations and movements, including those of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women, in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on climate change mitigation and response and disaster risk management, and promote the protection of the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the indigenous and Afrodescendent women of Latin America and the Caribbean;

35. *Reaffirm* the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly feminist and women's organizations and movements and organizations of indigenous and Afrodescendent women, youth and women with disabilities, as well as human rights defenders, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, fostering the conditions for their participation, addressing cultural or linguistic barriers and identifying and pursuing sources of financing;

36. *Thank* the women's and feminist movements and organizations of the region for their continuous support for the regional fund in support of women's and feminist movements and organizations and commend the fund's first call for proposals, to be opened by the board of the fund to mark International Women's Day in March 2020;

37. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular advances in the measurement of femicide or feminicide, total work time and women's participation in local government, and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

38. *Strengthen* the production of gender statistics at the national level and acknowledge the technical assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for national gender equality observatories, which facilitates data comparability and the construction of time series;

39. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for advancing in the implementation of the measures contained in the Montevideo Strategy and of the commitments undertaken at this session of the Regional Conference;

40. *Report* voluntarily at the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on progress in the implementation of this Commitment as part of the Regional Gender Agenda and the measures of the Montevideo Strategy;

41. *Urge* the developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, and to cooperate in capacity-building with a view to accelerating the application of the Montevideo Strategy and the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

42. *Welcome* the organization of the Generation Equality Forum, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and co-chaired by Mexico and France, as a global intersectoral and intergenerational gathering for gender equality led and partnered by civil society, which will begin in Mexico City on 7 and 8 May 2020 and continue in Paris from 7 to 10 July 2020, and urge all the countries of the region to participate in an active and committed manner in that Forum process and to resolutely support the participation of individuals from their respective civil societies;

43. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the organization at this session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean of high-level panels on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a regional space for discussion and construction of the gender equality agenda prior to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and request the Chair of the Regional Conference to convey the outcomes of this meeting at that session;

44. *Thank* the civil society organizations for their participation in the discussion on women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios, for their presence at this session of the Conference and for their commitment to the rights and autonomy of women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

45. *Also thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their contribution to the organization of this session of the Conference;

46. *Acknowledge* the Government of Uruguay for its leadership as Chair of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and thank, in particular, Mariella Mazzotti, Director of the National Women's Institute of the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay, for her commitment and work in support of the rights and autonomy of the women of Latin America and the Caribbean;

47. *Further thank* the Government of Chile for hosting the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

48. *Welcome* the offer of the Government of Argentina to host the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference, to begin the preparatory work for the session of the Conference to be held in 2022.