



**WHAT IS
THE REGIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE
CARIBBEAN?**



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

What is the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is convened every three years to identify the status of women's autonomy and rights at the regional and subregional levels; present recommendations regarding public policies on gender equality; undertake periodic assessments of the activities carried out in fulfilment of regional and international agreements on the subject; and serve as a forum for discussion on gender equality issues.

The first session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America, held in Havana in 1977, was convened by the secretariat of ECLAC, as decided at the seventeenth session of the Commission, two years after the World Conference of the International Women's Year (Mexico, 1975) and in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women.

Thus far, the member States of ECLAC have held twelve sessions of the Regional Conference, at which they have examined, assessed and proposed a long list of themes relating to the achievement of progress towards equality between women and men in the region.

Who convenes the sessions of the Regional Conference?

ECLAC has been given the mandate to convene the member States and associate members to sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In accordance with the corresponding regulations, no later than six weeks prior to each session of the Regional Conference, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC sends out invitations to the member countries and associate members of the Commission to participate in the deliberations. Other States Members of the United Nations and representatives of other bodies and programmes forming part of the United Nations system are invited to attend as observers, as are representatives of intergovernmental organizations and of non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and special guests.

Where are the sessions held?

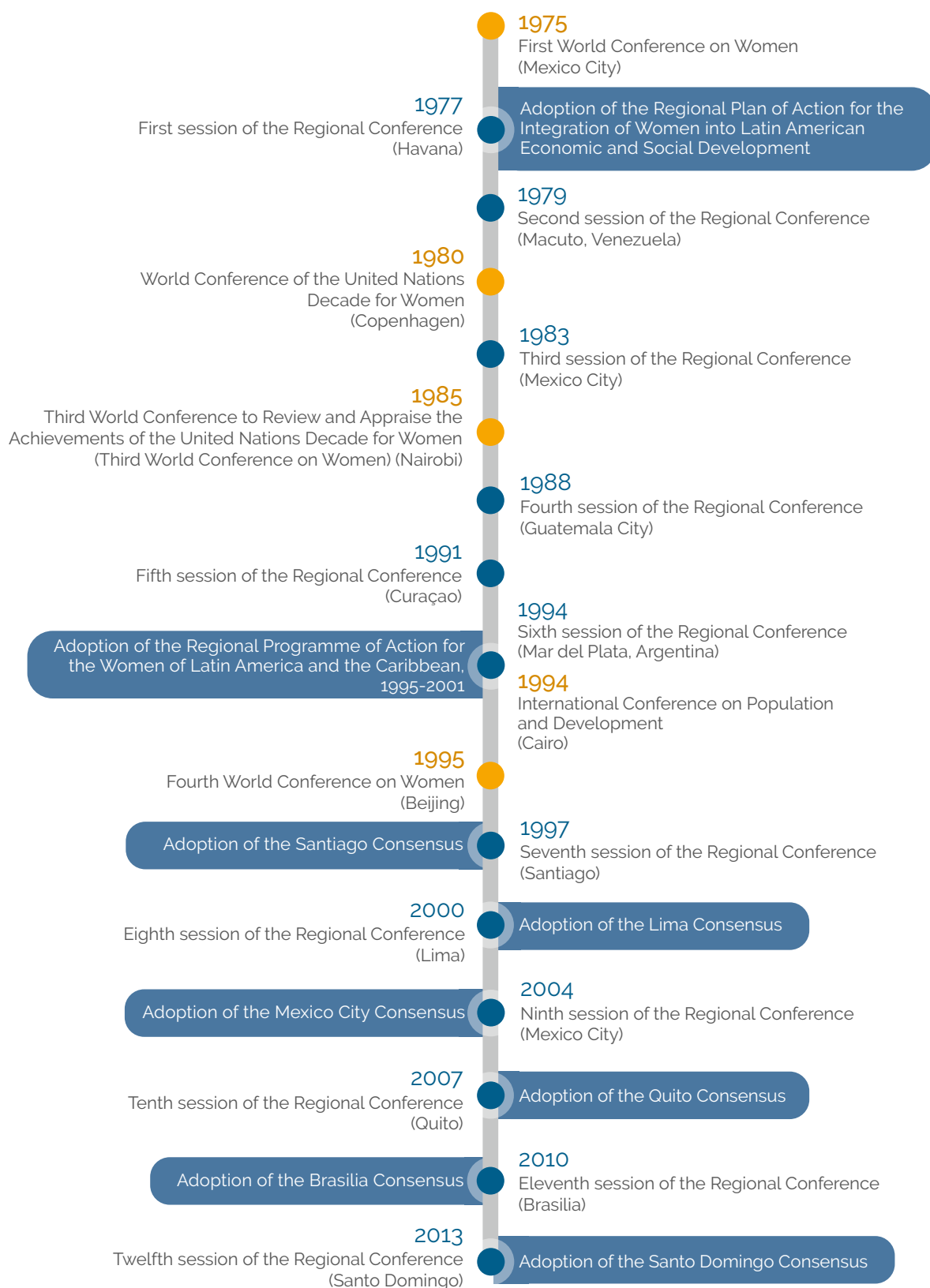
Generally, a member State of ECLAC offers to host the Conference. The thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean will be hosted by the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016.

The thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel, in Montevideo.

Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel. Address: Plaza Independencia 759.

www.radisson.com/montevideouy

Milestones of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean



What is the theme of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean?

The countries represented at the fifty-first meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago in November 2014, adopted as the theme for discussion at the thirteenth session of the Conference "gender equality, women's autonomies and sustainable development: progress towards implementation". The discussions at the session will revolve around the challenges of the regional agenda on gender affairs in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Who attends the sessions?

The sessions of the Regional Conference are attended by representatives of the member States and associate members of the Commission. Representatives of States enjoying consultative status¹ attend as observers.

In addition, the sessions are attended by observers from United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and other autonomous organizations, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Who are the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference?

The member States of the Commission elect Presiding Officers at the beginning of each session of the Regional Conference. The secretariat convenes a meeting of the heads of delegation prior to the opening of the regular session for this purpose. The Presiding Officers usually include a Chair (this office is customarily held by the host country) and several Vice-Chairs. The member States elect the Presiding Officers for each session of the Conference based on the principles of rotation of duties and of adequate representation of the various subregions.

The Presiding Officers of the Conference serve as a liaison between the Governments and the secretariat of ECLAC and meet between sessions of the Regional Conference in order to maintain a permanent mechanism for action. Accordingly, the Presiding Officers meet twice a year and have held 53 such meetings since 1978.

¹ Members of the United Nations which do not belong to the Commission and States which are not members of the United Nations hold consultative status.

Which countries serve as Presiding Officers?

The Presiding Officers who will serve until October 2016 were elected at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo in October 2013. They are as follows:

| Chair | Dominican Republic |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Vice-Chairs | Antigua and Barbuda |
| | Argentina |
| | Brazil |
| | Chile |
| | Costa Rica |
| | Cuba |
| | El Salvador |
| | Jamaica |
| | Mexico |
| | Panama |
| | Paraguay |
| | Peru |
| | Puerto Rico |
| | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| | Suriname |
| | Uruguay |

At the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in October 2016, the member States will have the opportunity to nominate and elect the new Presiding Officers.

Who prepares the documents?

The position paper for the Conference is prepared by the secretariat of ECLAC. Preliminary versions of the document are submitted to the member countries for their consideration at subregional preparatory meetings. The inputs from these meetings are included in the final version of the document, which serves as a basis for the deliberations of the Conference.

The secretariat also prepares supporting documentation, either alone or in collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations system or academic bodies from the region.

How are the sessions of the Conference organized?

The Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay and ECLAC are coordinating the organization of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference. The organization of work, as adopted by the Governments of the region at the three preparatory meetings held in June and July 2016, is shown below. Delegations should note that the organization of work may be updated at any time.

| Monday 24 October | Tuesday 25 October | Wednesday 26 October | Thursday 27 October | Friday 28 October |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 10 a.m. – noon |
| | Civil society activities | Election of Presiding Officers Adoption of the agenda Reading of the civil society declaration High-level panel Gender equality at the centre of sustainable development Discussion | Panel 3 Physical autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights Discussion Panel 4 Work: rights and autonomy Discussion | Round table Equality and sustainable development: the future agenda for women's rights Discussion |
| | | 1 – 2.30 p.m. Side events | 1 – 2.30 p.m. Side events | |
| 3 – 5 p.m. | 3 – 7.30 p.m. | 2.30 – 6 p.m. | 2.30 – 6 p.m. | 2.30 – 6 p.m. |
| Twenty-third meeting of Specialized Agencies and Other Bodies of the United Nations System on the Advancement of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean | Fifty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting of heads of delegation 4.30 p.m. Opening of the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean Presentation of the document <i>Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda</i> | Panel 1 Mainstreaming and affirmative action: tools for gender equality Discussion Panel 2 Giving and receiving care under equal conditions: bringing the sexual division of labour into question Discussion | Panel 5 The quality of democracy and women's participation in decision-making Discussion Panel 6 The right to live free from violence Discussion | Consideration and adoption of the Montevideo Strategy Closing session |
| | | 6.30 – 8 p.m. Side events | 6.30 – 8 p.m. Side events | |

Activities of non-governmental organizations related to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference

Non-governmental organizations may participate in the sessions of the Regional Conference as follows:

- As part of their national delegations, as arranged at the country level and approved by the respective Government.
- As organizations holding consultative status with the United Nations, in accordance with the rules of the Economic and Social Council.
- As observers, in the case of regional or subregional networks that are recognized for their work in implementing the regional agenda on gender affairs.

The registration form for the thirteenth session will be available on the website of the Conference <http://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/en> from 1 September through 10 October 2016.

Civil society activities will take place on Tuesday 25 October 2016. Enquires about these activities may be addressed to fofmontevideo@gmail.com.



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)
www.eclac.org