



UNITED NATIONS



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DRAFT AGENDA

Opportunity Has No Gender: Unlocking Women's Economic Potential in LAC

A dialogue in the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) XIV Regional Conference on Women in LAC

27 January 2020, 16:00-17:30

Room: Auditorio Fernando Fajnzylber, ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile

What is the issue?

Women contribute substantially to economic growth and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Yet despite rising levels of education and a growing number of women in the labour force, the gap between the number of working women and men remains: LAC women spend two to three times more hours on unpaid care and domestic work than men. Moreover, even when both participate in housework, women's and men's responsibilities differ: in Peru for example, women spend an average of 15 hours per week cooking compared to less than 5 hours for men. This behaviour reflects deeply embedded gender stereotypes and limits women's participation in the formal economy.

Why this meeting?

The dialogue "Opportunity Has No Gender: Unlocking women's economic potential in LAC" will serve to launch the EU-ECLAC-OECD joint project on Gender. The event will bring together LAC Ministers and international experts to explore key factors holding back women's economic empowerment in the region (including entrenched social norms, discriminatory legal frameworks, and a disproportionate care burden) and how these factors impact women's autonomy and insertion into the labour market of the future. The Latin American and Caribbean results from the OECD Development Centre's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), which explores discriminatory legislation and social norms affecting gender equality across 180 countries, will be presented. The meeting also aims to spark an open discussion to feed into regional and country specific publications for Chile, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia, which are being prepared for 2020-2021.

Why this joint project?

The Regional Facility for Development in Transition - a unique co-operation framework between the EU, the OECD and its Development Centre, and ECLAC - was created to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean while countries transition to higher levels of income. Together, these organisations decided to join forces for women's economic empowerment via the EU Facility project on Gender: "Better pay share, better norms and better prospects for future women's work in Latin America", which emerged in 2019. The project looks at the rising social and economic challenges for women's economic empowerment in LAC countries.



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OPENING AND WELCOMING REMARKS: JOINING FORCES FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ❖ **16h00-16h30: EU Facility Project on Gender (ECLAC-EU-OECD)**
 - Ms. Alicia Bárcena, *ECLAC Executive Secretary*
 - Ms. Stella Zervoudaki, *European Union Ambassador to Chile*
 - Ms. Gabriela Ramos, *OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20*
(Including a presentation of the key findings of the SIGI LAC report)

- ❖ **16h30-16h35: Family Photo**

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION: UNLOCKING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

MODERATOR:

Ms. Gabriela Ramos, *OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20*

PANELISTS:

- ▶ **CHILE:** Ms. Isabel Plá Jarufe, *Minister of Women and Gender Equity*
- ▶ **COLOMBIA:** Ms. Gheidy Gallo, *Presidential Advisor on Gender Equality*
- ▶ **COSTA RICA:** Ms. Epsy Campbell, *Vice President*
- ▶ **PERU:** Ms. Gloria Montenegro, *Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations*

- ❖ **16h35-17h00: Unpaid care work: women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work**
 - Which factors explain the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work assumed by women in Latin America?

- ❖ **17h00-17h25: The future of work: women's autonomy and insertion into the labour market**
 - How these factors affect women's autonomy and insertion into the labour market of the future?

CLOSING SESSION: MAIN REGIONAL CHALLENGES

- ❖ **17h25-17h30: Closing session**
 - Mr. Mario Cimoli, *ECLAC Deputy Executive Secretary*