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Women's autonomy in changing economic scenarios

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UNITED NATIONS

E C L A C



Global disruptions, interrelated crises and the urgency of a new development model

- Globalization has not found political or economic legitimacy
- Unregulated capitalism, financialization and market forces, turned upon themselves, undermine their own continuity
- Poor economic outcomes and austerity are sharpening recession and inequality
- Geopolitical, trade and technological rivalries
- Weakening of multilateralism
- Migration forced by poverty, violence and environmental crisis
- Growing inequalities are eroding the social contract and public confidence
- Environmental destruction and climate change



The paradox: international cooperation is declining just when it is most needed to implement the 2030 Agenda

The backdrop in our region: the culture of privilege and inequality

- Disillusionment and anger in the region have reached a breaking point with respect to the continuity of the existing model
- This model is associated with three decades of wealth concentration and environmental deterioration, with insufficient growth
- Institutions that reproduce the behaviours of agents with the greatest economic and political power
- A propensity for rent-seeking originally fuelled by privileged access to ownership of natural resources and to the financial economy
- The culture of privilege, a vestige of our colonial past, normalizes social hierarchies and highly unequal access to the fruits of progress, political deliberation and production assets
- The culture of privilege naturalizes inequalities and discrimination and it approaches equity —not inequality— from a welfarist perspective, rather than one of empowerment

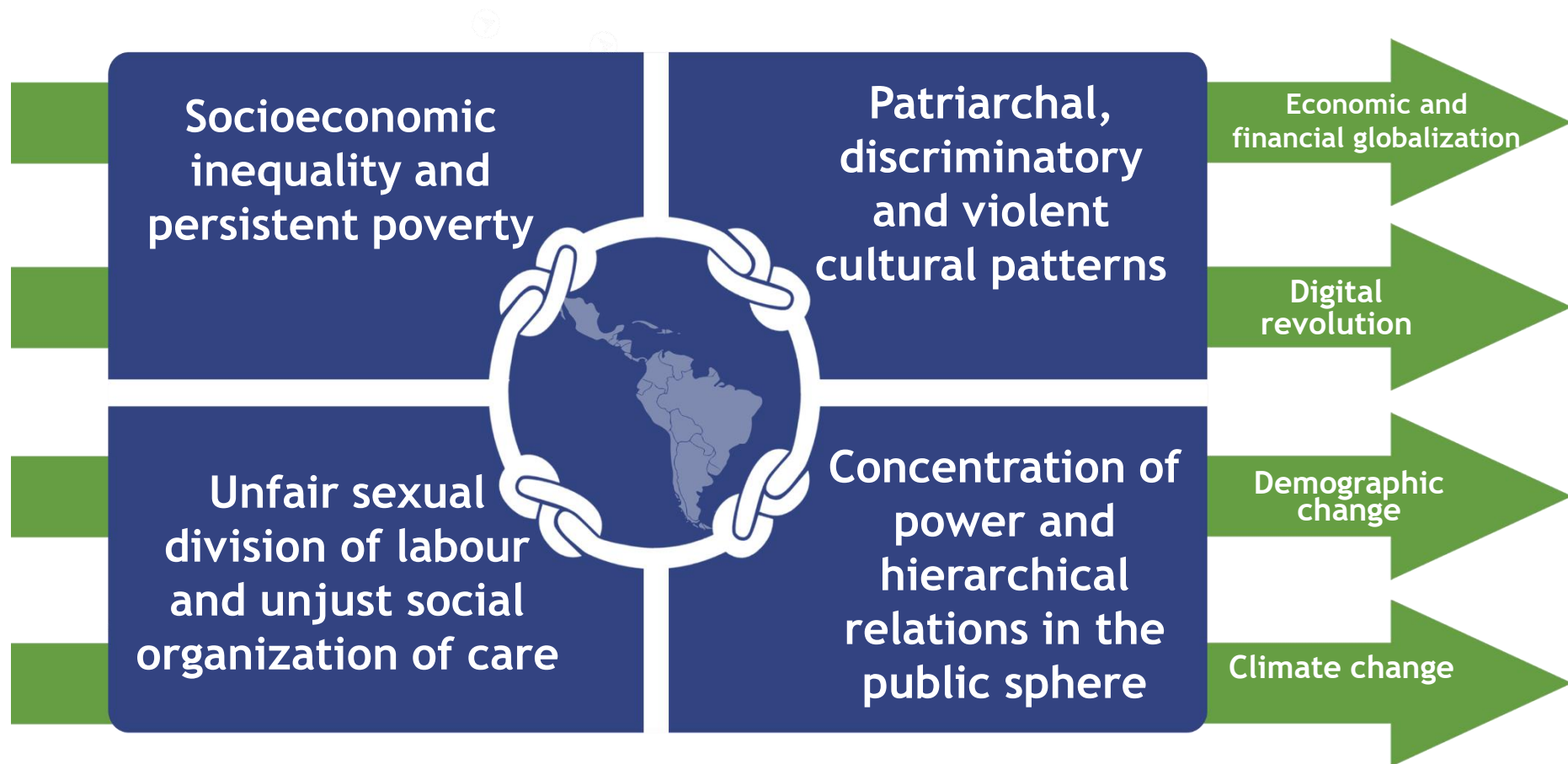
Gender inequality, a structural feature of Latin America and the Caribbean

The commitments undertaken in the Regional Gender Agenda must be expedited as a matter of urgency, in order to address the challenges of changing scenarios:

- ☐ Economic and financial globalization
- ☐ Digital revolution
- ☐ Demographic change
- ☐ Climate change

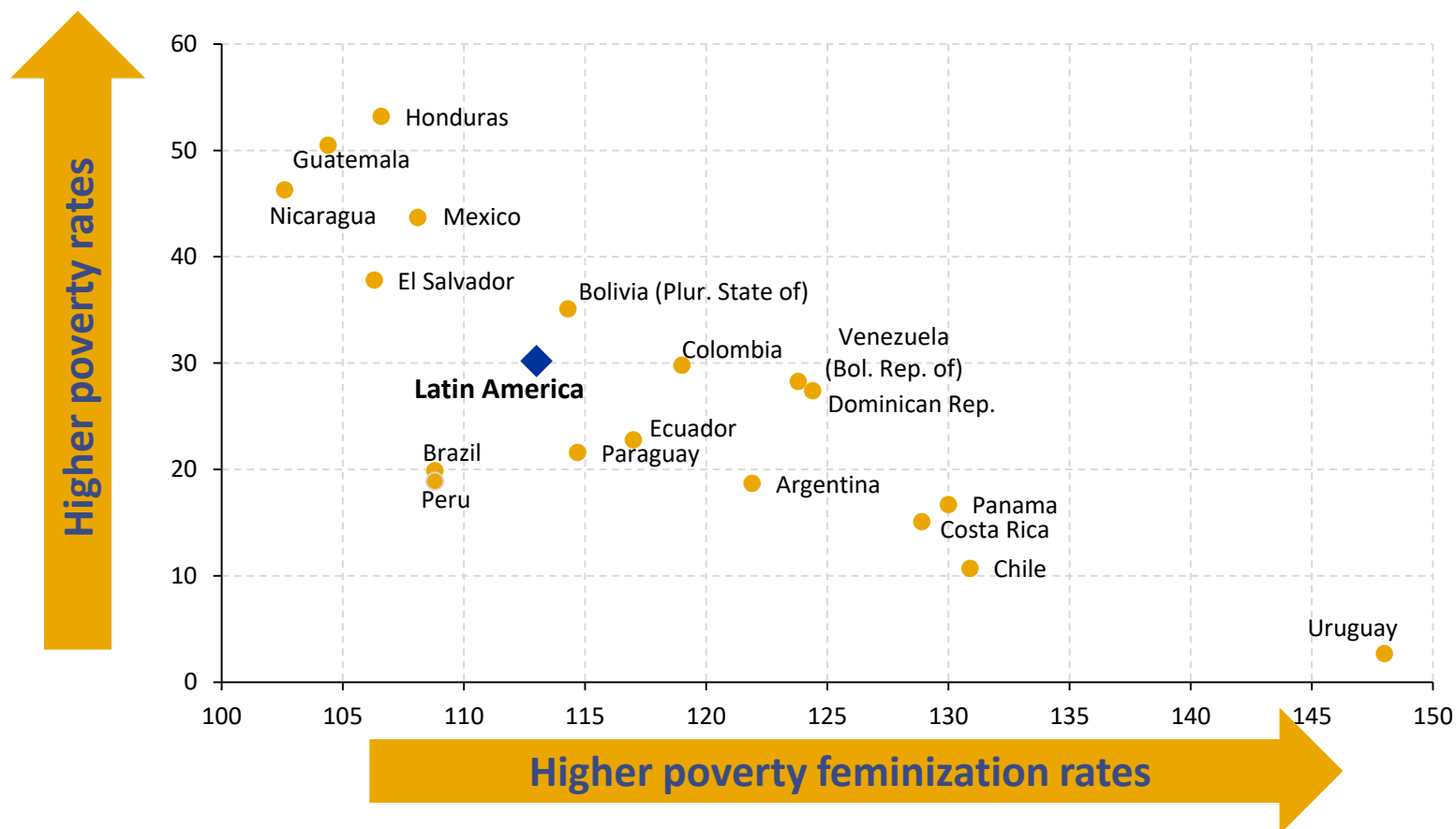
and devise comprehensive policies to address women's autonomy in all its dimensions

Dismantling the structural obstacles in changing scenarios



The countries with lower poverty levels have higher rates of poverty feminization

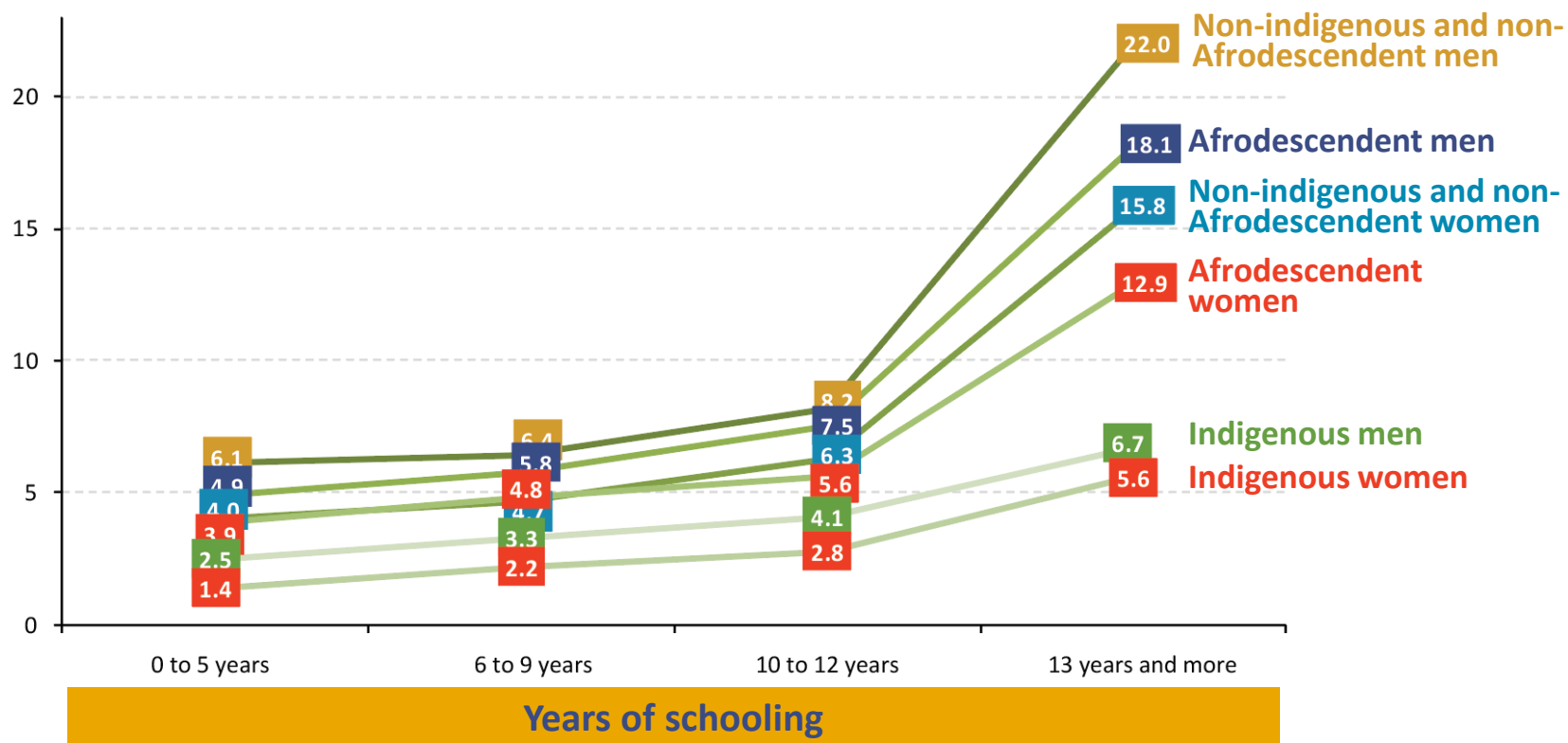
Latin American (18 countries): people living in poverty and femininity index of poor households, around 2017
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

The culture of privilege naturalizes multiple types of discrimination and inequalities

Latin America (weighted average for 4 countries): hourly income of the employed population aged 15 years or older, by years of schooling, gender and ethno-racial status, around 2017
(International dollars)

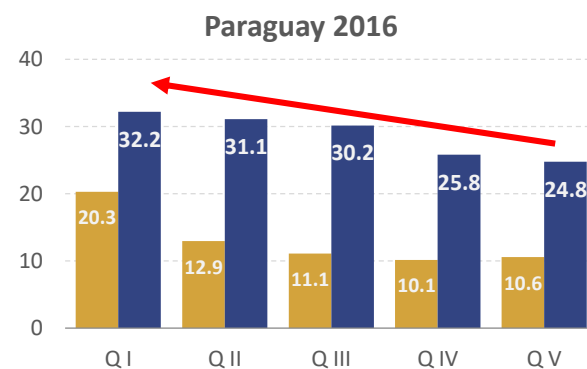
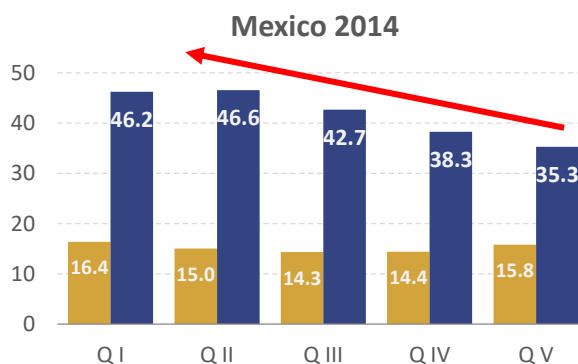
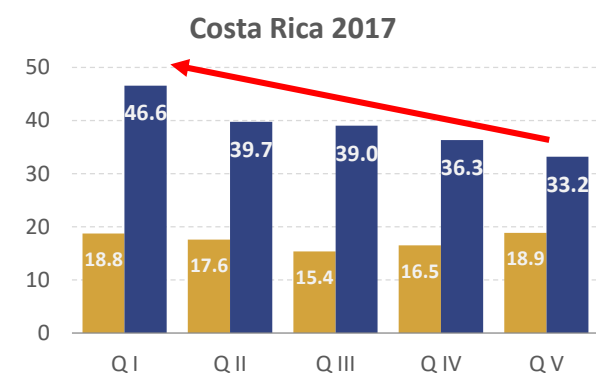
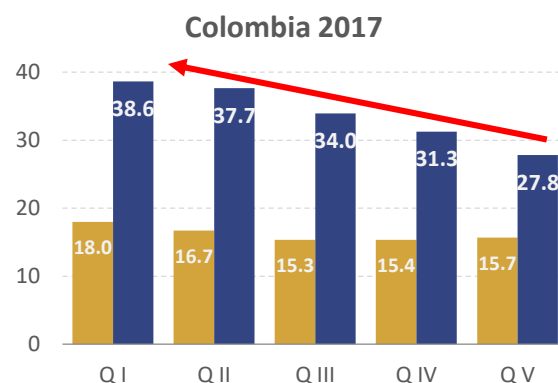
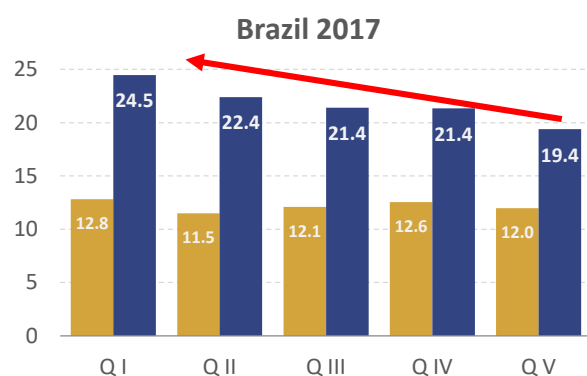


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).



The unjust social organization of care impacts more on women and is growing among lower-income households

Latin America (6 countries): unpaid working time of the population aged 15 or over, by income quintile and sex
(Hours per week)



■ Men ■ Women

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).



Changing macroeconomic scenarios

Uncertain international conditions

- Low growth in the world economy
- Slower international trade growth amid trade tensions
- More fragile international financial markets

Complex regional context

- Widespread economic slowdown synchronized across countries and sectors
- Persistent external vulnerability
- Income inequality reduction stalled and poverty rising
- Worsening employment conditions affect women more
- Mounting social demands for rights

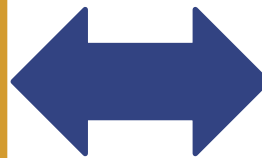
Transmission channels

Global economic and financial tensions impact countries and sectors through:

Trade

Financial system

Tax system



Costs and benefits of economic and financial globalization are not equitably distributed:

Workers

Consumers

Businesspeople

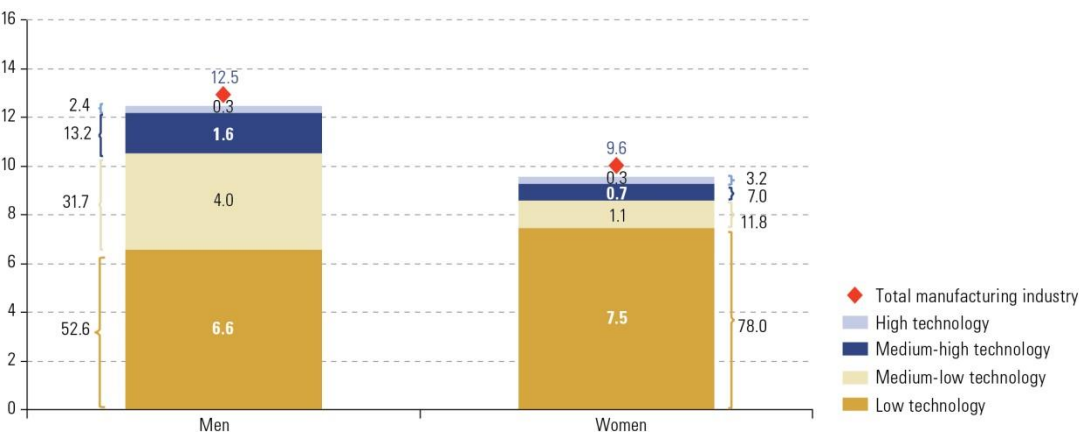
Those responsible (or not) for unpaid care work

Production specialization and gendered occupational segregation limits or enhances women's employment in the framework of international trade

South America

A natural resource-intensive export pattern generates little employment and less for women

South America (weighted average for 9 countries): distribution of the population employed in manufacturing by sex and level of technology intensity, around 2017
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).

Central America

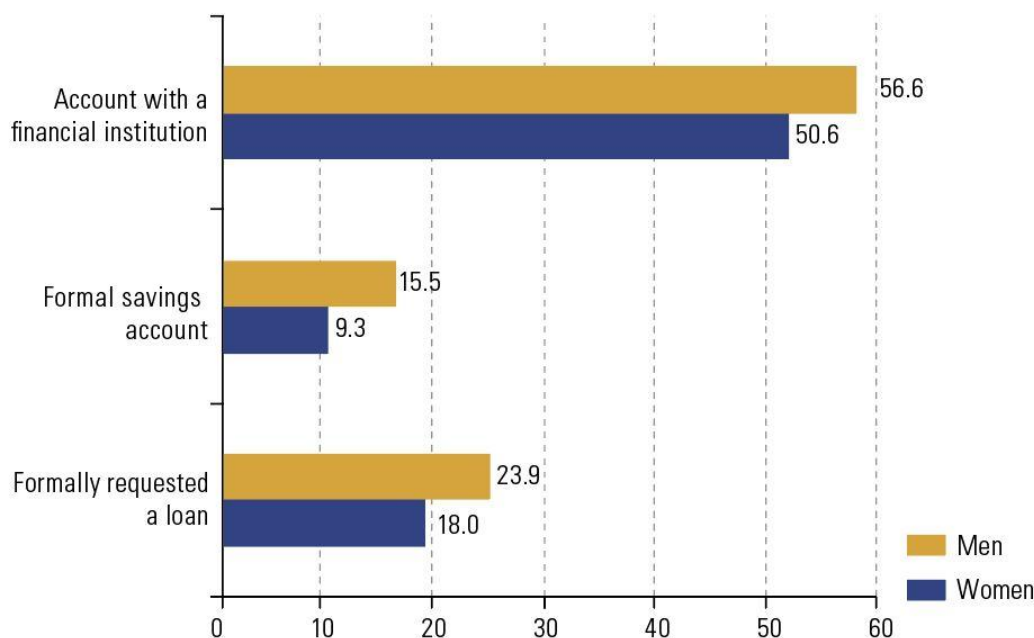
Manufacturing for export generates more employment for women, but mostly in low-tech sectors with gender wage gaps

Central America (weighted average for 6 countries): distribution of the population employed in manufacturing by sex and level of technology intensity, around 2017
(Percentages)



In a global context of increasing financial market expansion, women continue to face adverse credit access conditions

Latin America and the Caribbean (weighted average for 18 countries): participation in formal financial activities by sex, 2017
(Percentages)



Total amount of credit extended to women

(Per 100 units extended to men)

Guatemala, 2018

59%

Chile, 2018

57%

Costa Rica, 2017

67%

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of Superintendency of Banks and Financial Institutions (SBIF), *Género en el Sistema Financiero*, Santiago, 2016 and 2018; Superintendency of Banks (SIB), *Boletín Trimestral de Inclusión Financiera: Sistema Bancario*, Guatemala City, 2017; National Institute of Women/General Financial Institute Audit Bureau/Development Banking System (INAMU/SUGEF/SBD), *Informe de brechas entre hombres y mujeres en el acceso y uso del sistema financiero en Costa Rica*, San José, 2019; and data from national surveys.

The culture of privilege in tax systems: tax evasion hinders the redistribution of wealth and income

Evasion and avoidance

6.3% of GDP

150% of spending
on social protection

End evasion and avoidance to gain more fiscal space to finance pro-equality policies

Tax spending

3.7% of GDP

Rethink tax spending
Progressive tax policies including:

Tax rate

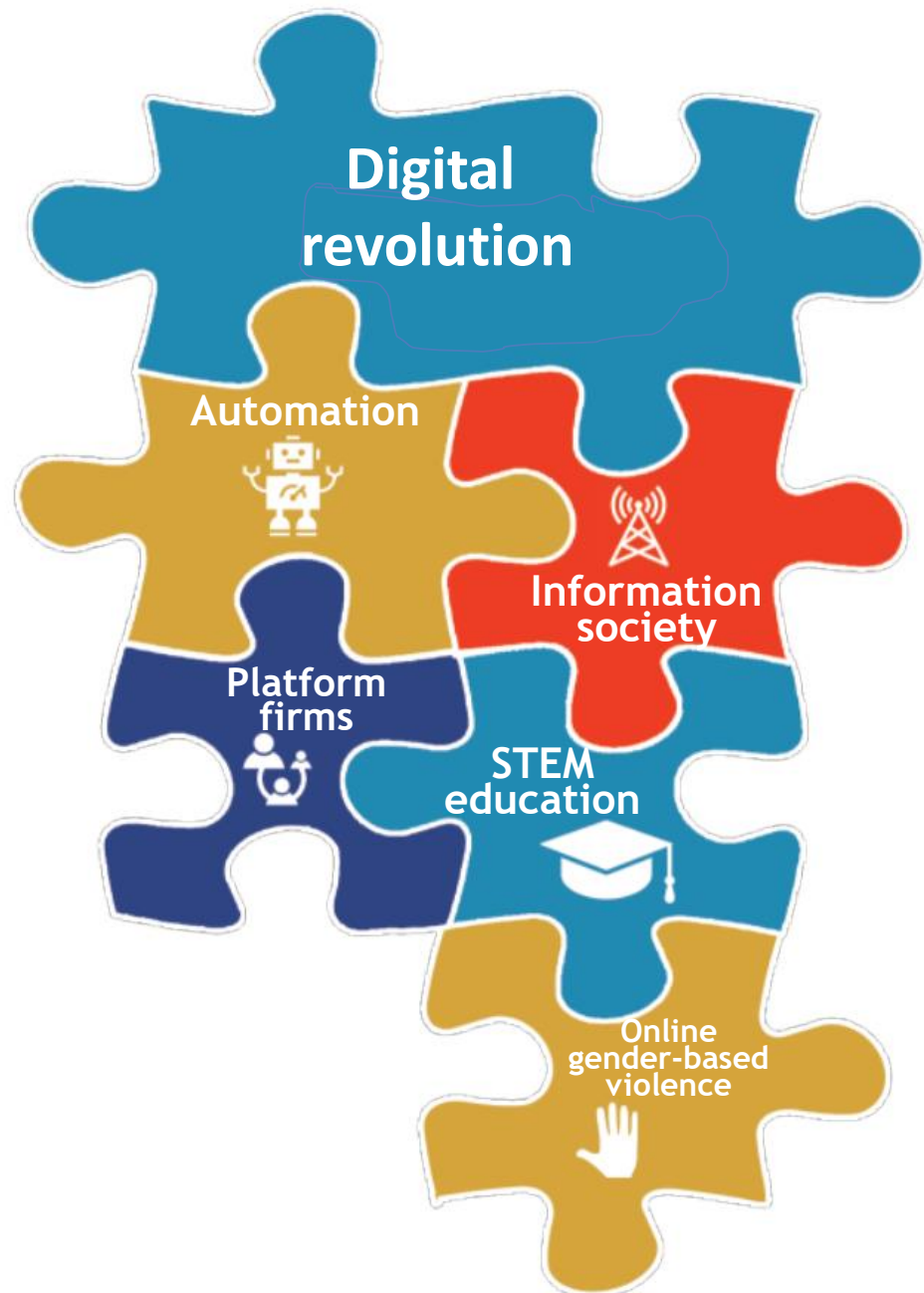
18% of GDP

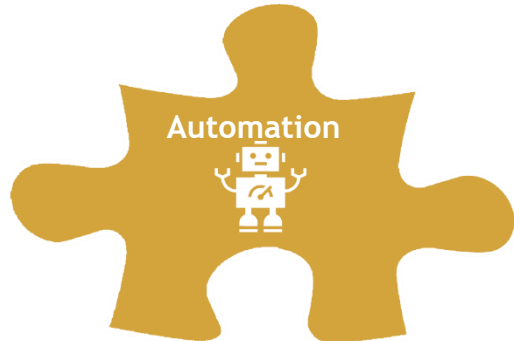
- Household structure as a criterion for determining tax capacity
- Deductions for care of dependent persons
- Exemptions for basic need products
- Tax treatment to promote women's labour participation

Policy guidelines for achieving greater equality in a complex global environment

- Trade policies and agreements must reduce asymmetries in production and technologies between countries and create opportunities for quality employment.
- Gear finances towards the real economy, close gender gaps in access to and use of financial services and avoid women's overindebtedness.
- Make tax systems more progressive, review tax spending, control evasion and illicit financial flows and allocate sufficient resources to gender equality policies.
- Invest in care systems that have multiplier effects on women's labour market participation and on the redistribution of time and income.

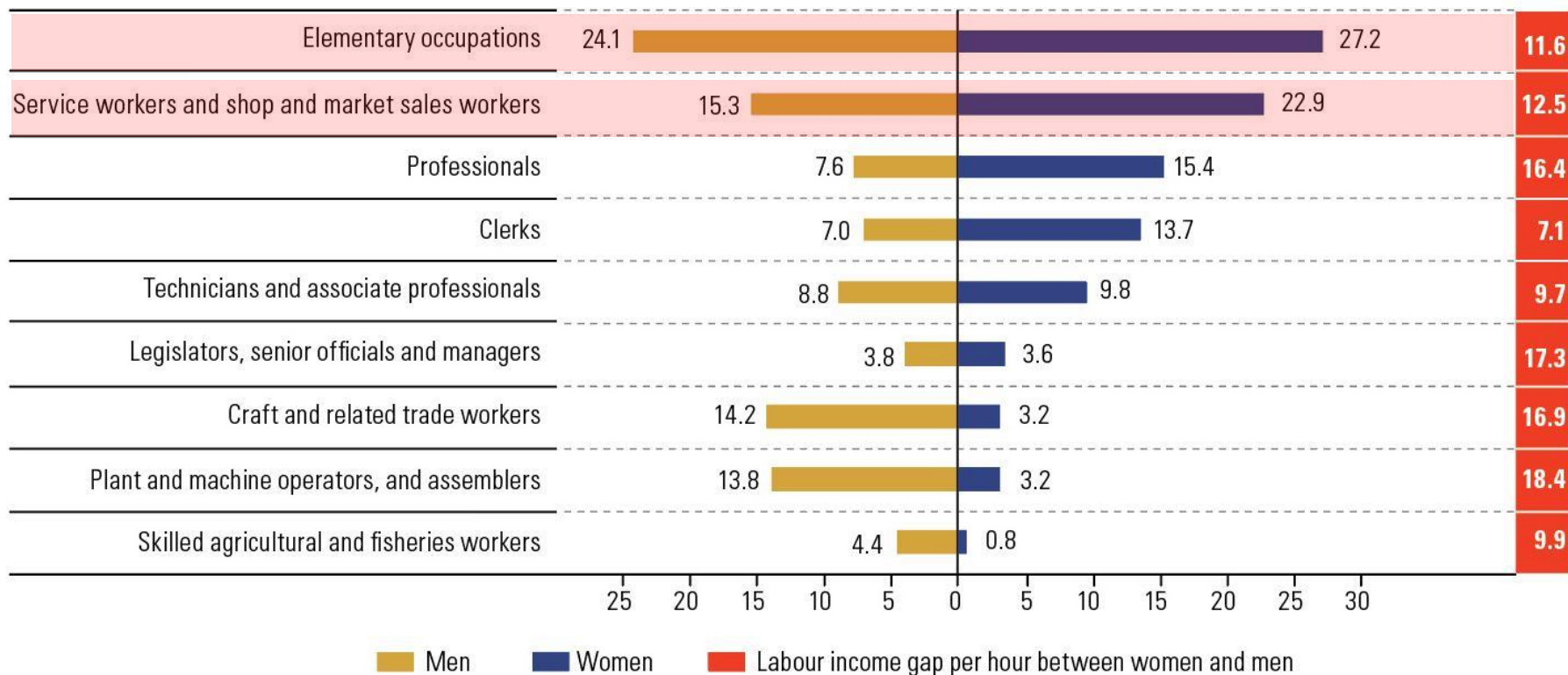
Digital revolution: trends and impacts on women's lives



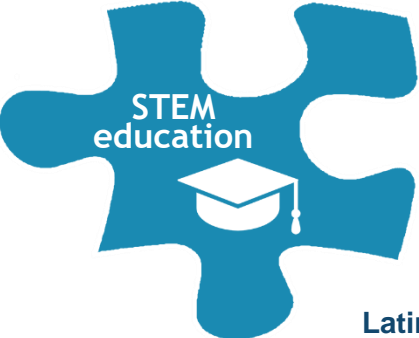


Automation will bring changes in the organization of paid work, mainly affecting activities involving routine tasks

Latin America (16 countries): distribution of the working population and income gap by type of occupation and sex, weighted averages around 2017
(Percentages)

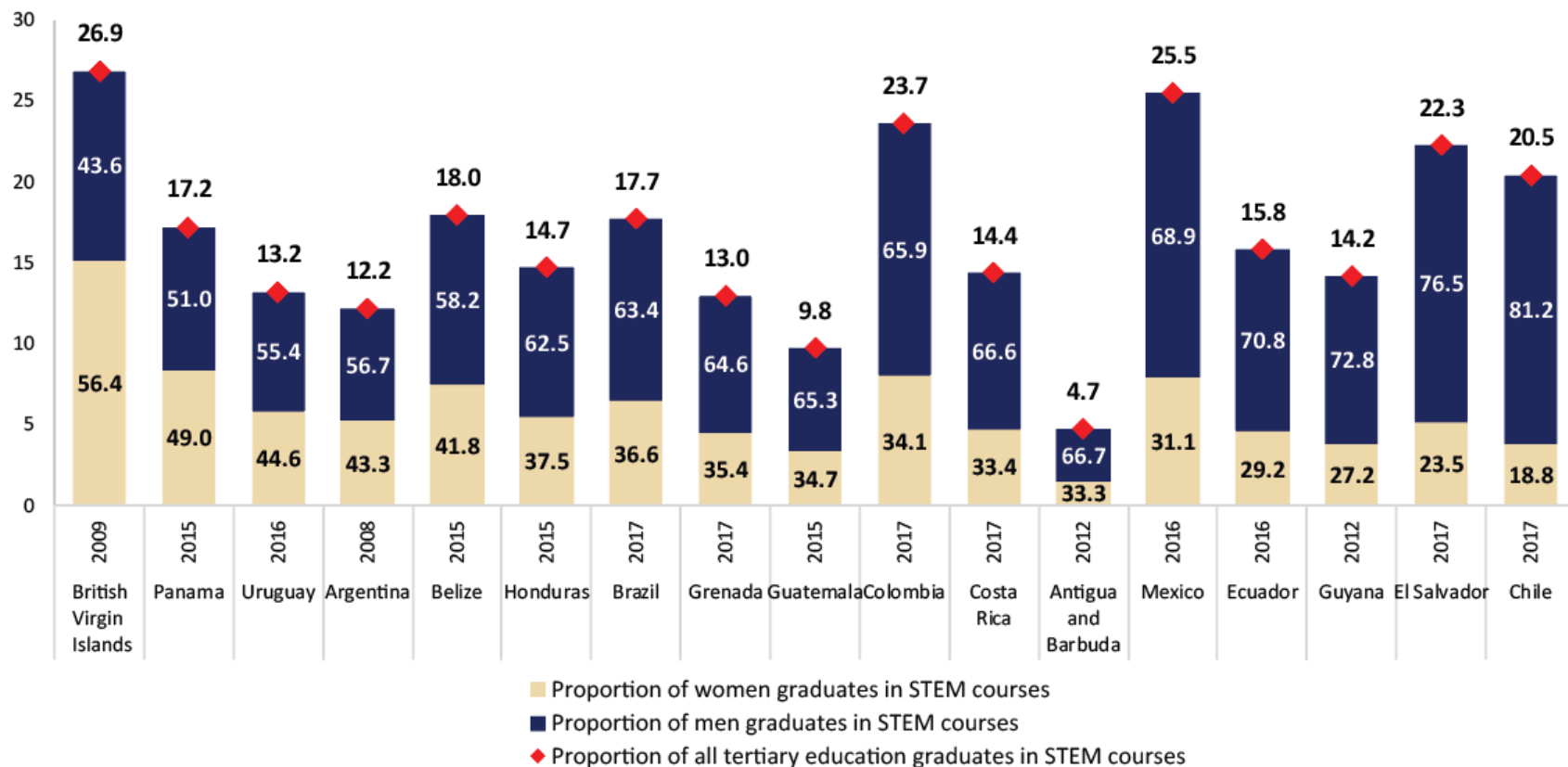


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).



Women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which limits their possibilities of a better position in the economy

Latin America and the Caribbean (17 countries and territories): graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), by sex, latest year available
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, *Social Panorama of Latin America*, 2018 (LC/PUB.2019/3-P), Santiago, 2019.

Information as a key element for making public services more efficient and better quality, increasing transparency and advancing towards gender equality

Areas of potential

- Use of social networks to foster gender equality
- Big data: an opportunity to cast light on gender gaps
- Social network campaigns (#NiUnaMenos #AmoeEs #NoDaCompartir)
- More accessible State services and timely information on procedures and tax payments



Threats

- Economic power in the hands of a few global firms
- Invasion of privacy and security breaches
- Anonymity, massification and coordination between perpetrators of gender violence

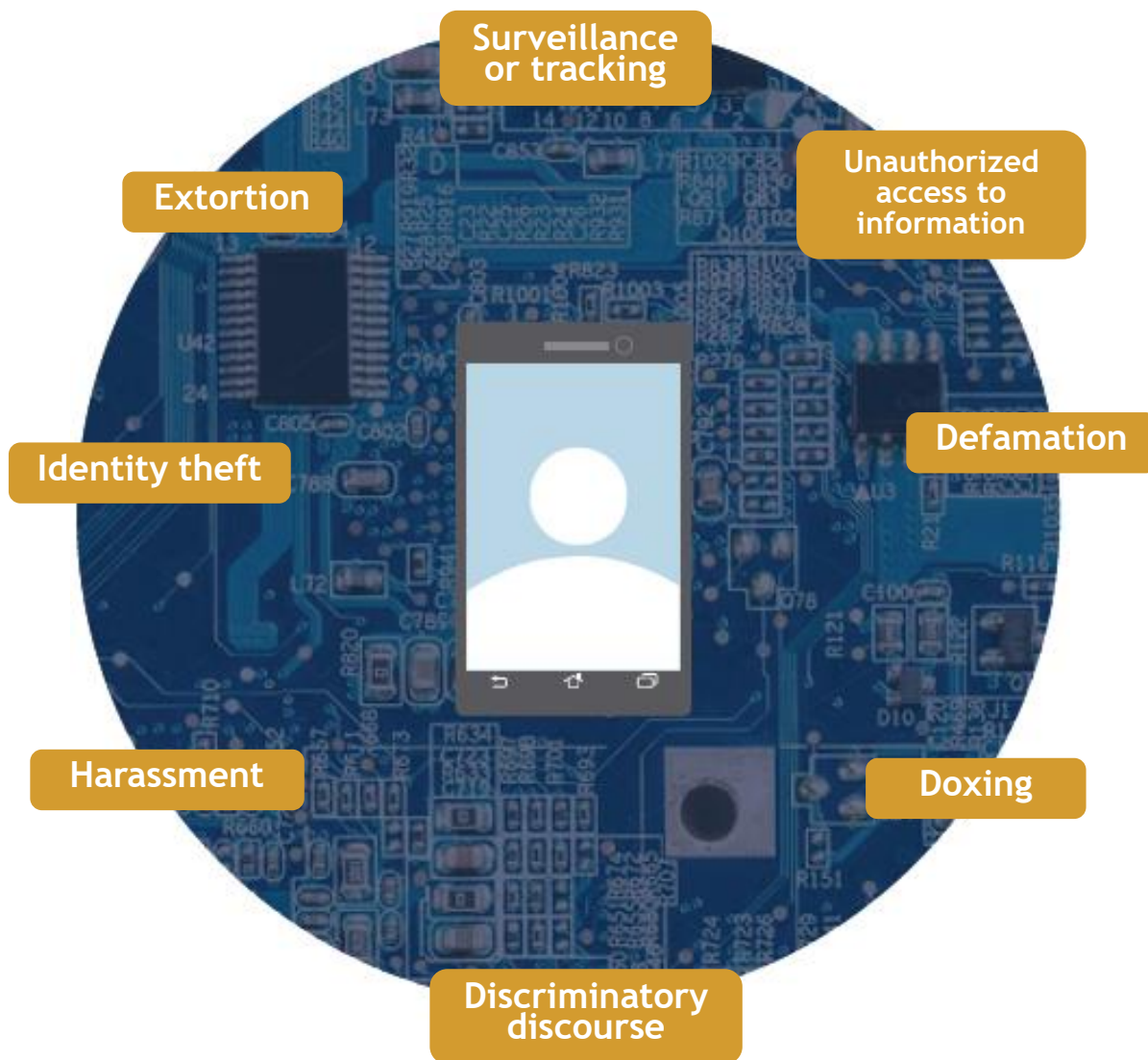
Some population groups still lag behind in access to technological services



Digital elites

36.8% digitally excluded

Violence against women through digital media manifests itself in multiple, interrelated and often recurring forms



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of International Telecommunication Union/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ITU/UNESCO), *Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls: a World-Wide Wake-Up Call*, 2015; ITU, *Cyber Violence against Women and Girls - A report by the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development Working Group on broadband and Gender*, 2015; and Luchadoras/SocialTIC/Association for Progressive Communications (APC), "13 Manifestations of Gender-Based Violence Using Technology", 2018

Policy guidelines for a digital revolution with equality

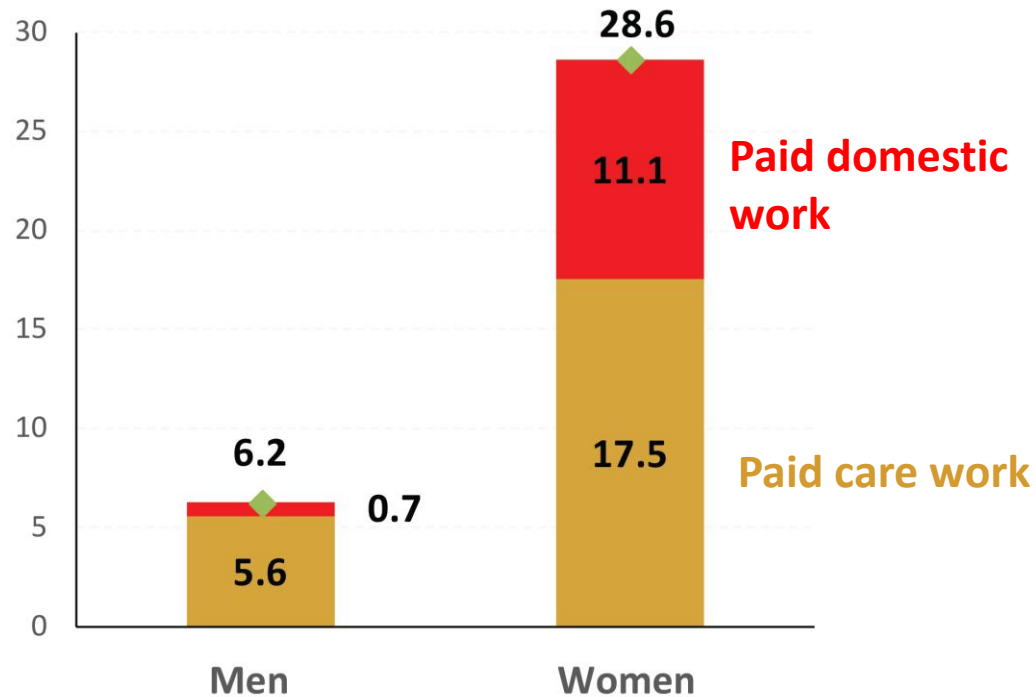
- Promote regional cooperation to discuss and design regulations on employment protection and taxation of platform companies
- Strengthen regional governance regarding technology, data use, knowledge transfer in key sectors, and prevention of online gender-based violence
- Foster inclusion of women in innovative sectors such as technology, energy and in other emerging sectors, with a view to the future of work

The care economy

- Women contribute to functioning economies through an invisible contribution to unpaid work
- Investing in the care economy contributes to diversification of the production structure, economic growth and equality, without breaching ecological limits for the reproduction of life

Gender stereotypes are transferred to the labour market, where women are concentrated in care roles

Latin America (weighted average of 15 countries): distribution of the employed population aged 15 or over by paid domestic and care work, around 2017
(Percentages)

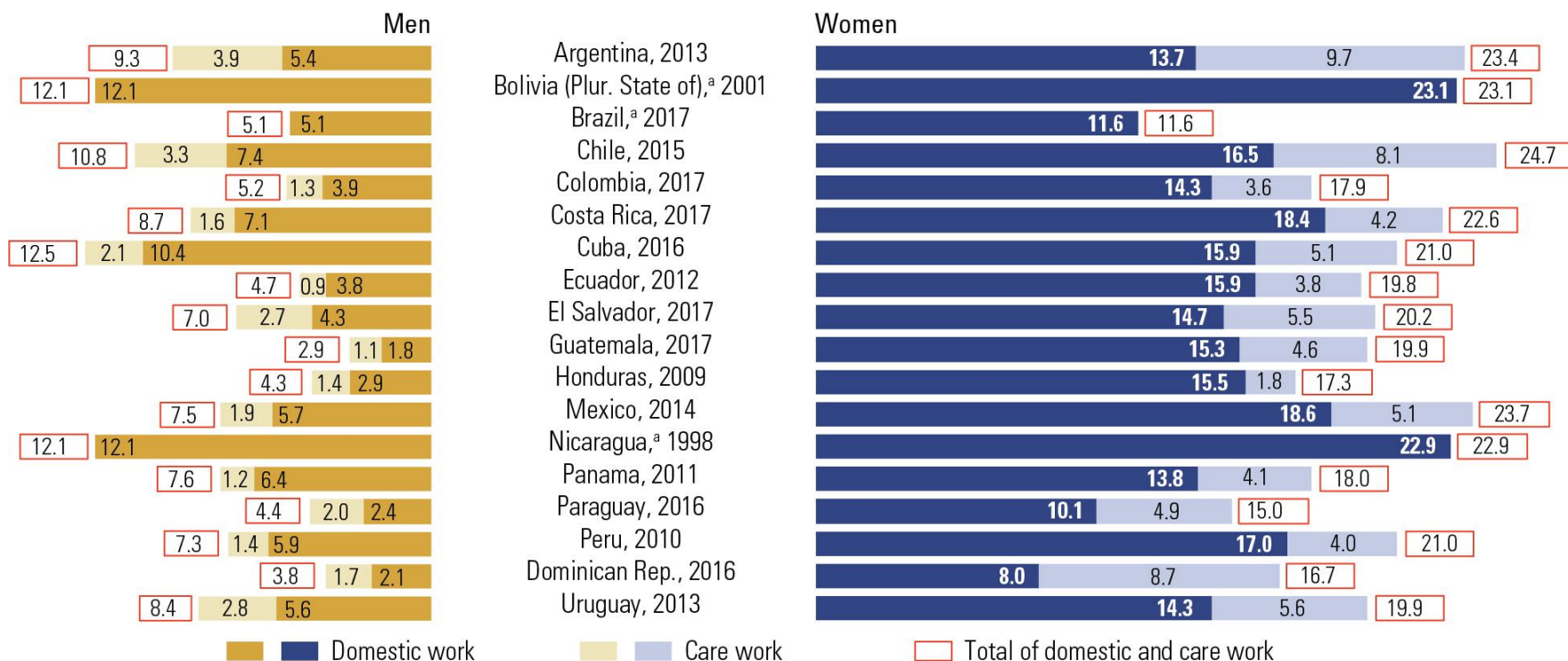


One third
of employed
women work in
segments of
the care
economy

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG)

It is essential for unpaid work to be recognized, valued and redistributed by 2030

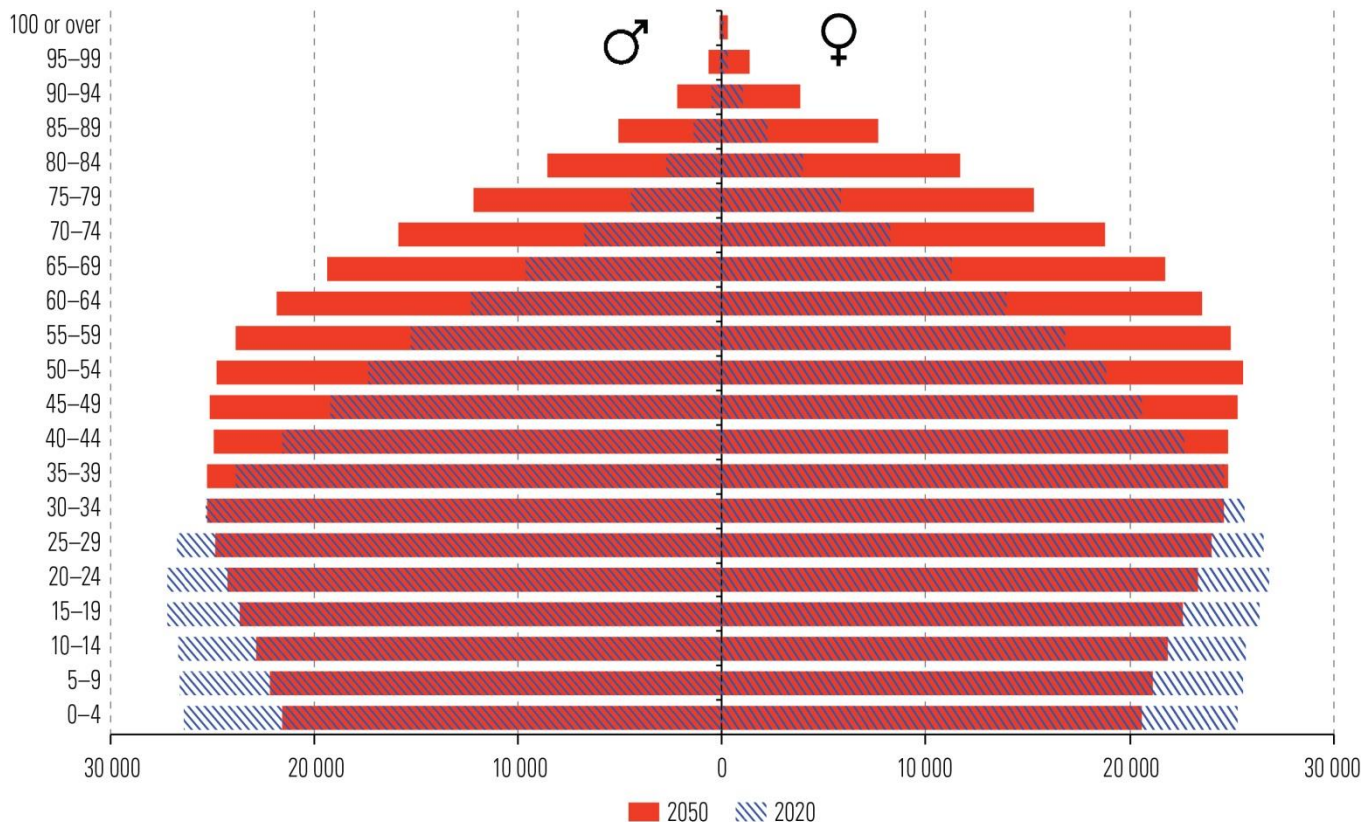
Latin America (18 countries): time spent on unpaid household chores and care, by sex and type of unpaid work, latest available year
(Percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, Repository of information on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean.
• Does not allow for domestic work to be distinguished from care work.

Under today's demographic trends, the current distribution of care will increase women's excessive workload and threaten sustainable development

Latin America and the Caribbean (38 countries): population distribution by age group and sex, 2020 and 2050
(Thousands of people)



Demographic trends in the region

Declining fertility

Adolescent pregnancy

Greater presence of minors in poor households

Increasing life expectancy

Feminization of old age

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of United Nations, World Population Prospects 2019

Global care chains: migrant women cover care needs that are not addressed by national policies



69% of Paraguayan women immigrants and **58% of Peruvian women immigrants** are in paid domestic work



13% of all female migrants are in paid domestic work



34% of all female migrants are in paid domestic work

Policy guidelines for a care economy with equality

- Foster construction of comprehensive care systems with joined up policies on time, resources, benefits and services.
- Public policies on equality that recognize women's contribution to the economy through unpaid domestic and care work, and which promote co-responsibility and a fair distribution of the total workload.
- Design social protection and care systems that respond to demographic changes.
- Coordinate regional and subregional policies between countries of origin, transit and destination of women migrants, and guarantee all their rights.

Climate change-related disasters adversely affect women's economic autonomy



Water shortages

In Guatemala, women living in rural areas spend six hours per week fetching water, nearly a full hour more than men



A tourism sector under threat

Above all in the Caribbean, many women are employed in the tourism sector and their sources of employment are threatened by natural disasters



No gender perspective in post-disaster support programmes

Post-disaster support programmes are often based on an implicit assumption that women will devote their time and effort to provide unpaid caregiving services in the wake of a disaster

Urgent need to address climate change and its gender-differentiated impact

Key challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean



Agriculture

Changes in agriculture and threat to food sovereignty



Energy

Energy poverty and efficient, CO₂-free generation systems



Urban areas

Impact on urban areas, where 80% of the population lives



Forests and biodiversity

Reduction in forest cover



Coastal areas and water resources

Rising sea levels and shrinking water resources

Faced with a scenario that threatens the sustainability of life itself, there is an urgent need to create conditions for equality and avoid excluding women from the processes of seeking climate change solutions and responses

National plans and nationally determined contributions that include the gender dimension



Gender and climate change action plans

A tool for responding to the needs of women and for linking up national and global policies and improving policies on climate change and development

7 countries

Costa Rica, Cuba,
Dominican Republic,
Haiti, Mexico, Peru
and Panama



Gender equality plans/strategies with an environmental dimension

Incorporation of a gender approach in national plans or policies on climate change adaptation

6 countries

Guyana, Grenada,
Honduras, Paraguay,
Suriname and Uruguay

The rights of women environmental defenders

- Socio-environmental conflicts have worsened in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Diverse organizations have demonstrated against initiatives that may have adverse impacts at the territorial level.
- Violence against environmental defenders has increased drastically. Latin America has the world's highest percentage of individuals killed for these reasons.

Escazú Agreement

The Agreement aims to ensure the right of all persons to have access to information in a timely and appropriate manner, to participate significantly in making the decisions that affect their lives and their environment, and to access justice when those rights have been infringed.



Montevideo Strategy

The Governments agreed to foster the participation of women's and feminist organizations and movements in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies on the mitigation of and response to extreme weather events, risk management and resilience-building at the regional, national, subnational and local levels.

Policy guidelines for addressing climate change with equality

- Align climate change adaptation and mitigation policies with gender equality policies.
- Strengthen coordination between machineries for the advancement of women and ministries of the environment, planning and energy.
- Ensure the conditions for the full participation of women—in all their diversity—in the design and follow-up of public policies on climate change and comprehensive management of disaster risk, especially in the Caribbean.

In sum, to make progress towards gender equality in changing economic scenarios

- Renew multilateralism in Generation Equality and in Beijing+25 to strengthen cooperation and correct asymmetries in response to globalization, the digital revolution, climate change and migration.
- Generate data to support the analysis of different dimensions of inequality and prospective studies on global and regional trends that impact gender equality and women's autonomy.
- Rethink relations between institutions and structures, involving a broad range of agents to change global and regional power relations and transform privileges into rights.