



**Parliamentary Forum in the framework of the  
XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean  
*"The Care Society as a Horizon for Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality"***

**CONCEPTUAL NOTE**

Details of the event:

- TITLE:** Parliamentary Forum
- PARTICIPANTS:** Representatives of national, regional, and international parliamentary bodies
- DATE:** November 7 and 8, 2022
- HOURL:** First day: from 14.00 p.m. - 18.30 p.m.  
Second day: 8.30 a.m. – 11.00 p.m.
- LOCATION:** Congress of the Argentine Nation, Buenos Aires

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) that brings together the Ministers and High Authorities of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women on a permanent and regular basis, to identify the regional and subregional situation with respect to women's autonomy and rights; present recommendations for public policies on gender equality; carry out periodic evaluations of the activities carried out in compliance with regional and international agreements; and provide a forum for debate on gender equality.

Within the framework of the XV Conference, which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 7 to 11, 2022, and whose central theme of debate will be "The Care Society: Horizon for a Sustainable Recovery with Gender Equality", a regional Parliamentary Forum is proposed, with the aim of sharing experiences and advancing the Regional Gender Agenda in the parliamentary sphere, through regulatory frameworks that integrate the right to care, the promotion of public financing, policies and comprehensive care systems, as well as maternity, paternity and parental leave and measures towards co-responsibility and the recognition of paid domestic work.

It is within this framework that the Forum aims to bring together women parliamentarians at the national and regional level from Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, focusing on those who lead the chambers of Congress, chair and/or are members of women's or gender commissions, caucuses and/or groups, together with assembly members who have promoted legislation for gender equality, especially in relation to care agenda.



The Forum will take place on November 7-8, 2022, and is organized by the Government of Argentina, with the support of ECLAC and UN Women.

## **Background**

The need to consolidate gender equality in formal institutions has been a permanent element in the regional agendas of Latin America and the Caribbean and has been incorporated from the outset in the contents of plans, consensus and commitments (ECLAC, 2010)<sup>1</sup>. In its 45 years, the Regional Gender Agenda has included the importance of advancing towards legislative measures that address gender gaps and inequalities, as well as towards a parity democracy that enables gender balance in national assemblies and all areas of public institutions (ECLAC, 2022)<sup>2</sup>.

According to data from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the region of the Americas is the region with the largest number of women parliamentarians in the world (2022)<sup>3</sup>. This progress, as a result of the design of quota laws and parity norms promoted by feminist and women's organizations in alliance with networks of congresswomen, women politicians, experts, academics and allies of parity democracy, has allowed the expansion of women's representation in parliamentary decision-making and given greater impetus to the elimination of discriminatory legislation against women and girls, as well as the development of pioneering regulations towards the autonomy of women and girls and gender equality (UN Women, 2021)<sup>4</sup>.

As part of this process, legislative agendas in Latin America and the Caribbean have been consolidated in light of the contributions of world conferences; the commitments made by States at the international and regional levels; the existence of parliamentary commissions and groups working on women's rights in national congresses or assemblies; the sustained action of feminist, women's and civil society organizations; the work of networks of women parliamentarians; and the contributions of networks of women jurists and specialized organizations, among others (ECLAC, 2010)<sup>5</sup>.

As has been pointed out in the various preparatory bodies for the XV Conference, achieving sustainable development implies building a care society that places gender equality and the sustainability of life at the center. This issue is even more urgent in a global and regional scenario affected by the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and those associated with

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<sup>1</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Agendas legislativas y parlamentarias para el desarrollo de los derechos de las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe*, Serie mujer y desarrollo No 105, Santiago, 2010 [spanish].

<sup>2</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *45 years of the Regional Gender Agenda* (LC/MDM-E.2022/4), Santiago, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2022. *Women in Parliament in 2021: the year in review*.

<sup>4</sup> UN Women (2021), *Towards parity and inclusive participation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional overview and contributions to CSW65*.

<sup>5</sup> Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Agendas legislativas y parlamentarias para el desarrollo de los derechos de las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe*, Serie mujer y desarrollo No 105, Santiago, 2010 [spanish].



the war in Ukraine, with a disproportionate impact on the autonomy of women and girls (CLACSO, UN Women and OXFAM, 2022)<sup>6</sup>.

In this sense, different parliaments have developed bills and sanctioned regulations on care through their Constitutions; comprehensive laws; laws related to care policies and services; recognition of paid domestic work; policies on time, co-responsibility and maternity, paternity, and parental leave; among others. Most of these regulations are surveyed and available in the repository of laws of ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>7</sup>. At the level of regional parliaments, the Framework Laws on the Comprehensive Care System (2012)<sup>8</sup> and on the Economy of Care (2013)<sup>9</sup> of the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) stand out.

Along with the enactment of legislation and policies related to gender equality, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has pointed out the importance of establishing a gender-sensitive parliamentary infrastructure and culture, facilitating the reconciliation between work and family life through the establishment of care spaces in parliaments, leave, scheduling arrangements and mechanisms that facilitate parliamentarians to exercise their tasks and functions equally (2017)<sup>10</sup>. In this regard, in 2011 a study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and International IDEA has pointed out that in Latin America national congresses still have challenges in the absence of mechanisms and measures in this regard<sup>11</sup>.

In light of these challenges and experiences at the regional level and in view of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, the Parliamentary Forum aims to carry out an inter-institutional dialogue to strengthen inter-parliamentary alliances, towards the implementation of legislative agendas that recognize the right to care in Latin America and the Caribbean, and promote comprehensive care systems and policies for the autonomy and full exercise of the rights of women and girls, in all their diversity.

### **Objectives:**

- Raise the visibility of legislative initiatives towards the construction of a care society in Latin America and the Caribbean through the exchange of national and regional experiences that will accelerate the commitments of parliamentary actors to gender equality and sustainable development between now and 2030.
- Promote dialogue and the construction of a parliamentary work agenda among women parliamentarians at the regional and national levels, to advance regulatory reforms that guarantee the autonomy and full exercise of the rights of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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<sup>6</sup> CLACSO, UN Women and OXFAM (2022). *Avances y desafíos pendientes de la Declaración y la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing en el contexto de la recuperación de la crisis por Covid-19*. [spanish].

<sup>7</sup> <https://oig.cepal.org/en/laws/care-related-policies-laws>

<sup>8</sup> PARLATINO (2012). *Ley Marco de Sistema Integral de Cuidados* [spanish].

<sup>9</sup> PARLATINO (2013). *Ley Marco sobre Economía del Cuidado* [spanish].

<sup>10</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, (2017), *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*.

<sup>11</sup> International IDEA and Inter-Parliamentary Union (2011), *Gender-sensitive Parliaments: a global review of good practice*.



## PROGRAM

(Argentina Time; GMT-3)

### Day 1: Monday, November 7, 2022

| Time          | Agenda  |
|---------------|---|
| 13:15 - 14:00 | Collection of credentials and access to the Congress of the Argentine Nation  |
| 14:00 - 14:30 | <b>Opening of the Parliamentary Forum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ayelén Mazzina, Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity of Argentina</li><li>• Mónica Macha, Speaker of the Women and Diversity Commission of the Honorable House of Representatives of the Argentine Nation</li><li>• María Eugenia Catalfamo, national Speaker of the Women's Banking Commission and Regional Representative in the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas</li></ul>   |
| 14:30 - 15:00 | <b>Presentation of ECLAC-UN Women joint document on care regulations in Latin America and the Caribbean.</b><br><br><u>Present the document:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ana Güezmes, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC</li><li>• Cecilia Alemany, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean and Country Representative a.i. in Argentina</li></ul>  |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | <b>Break</b>  |
| 15:30 - 18:00 | <b>Panel 1: <i>The right to care in Latin America and the Caribbean. Normative advances towards comprehensive care policies and systems at the national level.</i></b><br><br><u>Presents:</u> Silvia Sapag, Secretary of the Women's Banking Commission of the Honorable Senate of Argentina<br><br><u>Moderates:</u> Jimena López, Secretary of the Women and Diversity Commission of the Honorable House of Representatives of Argentina Nation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Luz Mary Alpízar, President of the Parliamentary Group of Women Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica</li><li>• Isabel Bennett, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Group of Women of the National Assembly of Belice</li><li>• Daniella Cicardini, Representative of Chile</li><li>• Eunice Romo, Member of the Gender Equality Commission of the Senate of Mexico</li><li>• Veronica Azpiroz Cleñan, Member of the Network of Indigenous Professionals of Argentina</li></ul><br><i>Interventions by parliamentary delegations</i> |



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| 18:00 - 18:30 | <p><b>Closing of the first day - Reflections towards the National Day of Afro-Argentines and Afro-Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patricia Gomes, Member of the Gender Unit of the November 8 Commission of Argentina</li> <li>• Florencia Gomes, Member of the Gender Unit of the November 8 Commission of Argentina</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Day 2: November 8, 2022</b> |   |
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| Time                           | Agenda  |
| 8:00 - 8:30                    | Collection of credentials and access to the Congress of the Argentine Nation  |
| 8:30 - 10:00                   | <p><b>Panel 2: <i>Regulatory frameworks to advance towards a care society from a regional perspective.</i></b></p> <p><u>Moderates:</u> Jacqueline del Carmen Muñoz Cedeño, President of Women’s Caucus of PARLACEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mónica Silvana González, Member of the Socialists and Democrats Group of the European Parliament</li> <li>• Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the Interamerican Commission of Women (CIM) - Organization of American States (OAS)</li> <li>• Diana Riba I Giner, Member of the Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Commission of the European Parliament</li> <li>• Julia Argentina Perié, Representative for Argentina in the Mercosur Parliament and Co-President of the Women’s Forum of Eurolat</li> <li>• Edmonde Beauzile, Parliamentarian and Coordinator of the Women’s Movement for Development of Haiti</li> <li>• Maria do Rosário, Federal Representative of Brazil and Representative for Argentina in the Mercosur Parliament</li> </ul> <p><i>Interventions by parliamentary delegations</i></p> |
| 10:00 - 10:50                  | <p><b>Final Remarks and Roadmap:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marita Perceval, Secretary of Equality and Diversity of the Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity of Argentina</li> <li>• Leire Pajín Iraola, President of EU-LAC Foundation</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing of the Parliamentary Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• María Noel Vaeza, UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean</li> <li>• José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, ECLAC Executive Secretary</li> </ul>   |
| 10:50 – 11:00                  | <b>Group Picture</b>  |