



Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 4 and 5 December 2024

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Sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers
of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 4 and 5 December 2024

**DECLARATION BY THE MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF THE NATIONAL
MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN, THE FOCUS OF WHICH WILL BE ON THE REVIEW AND
APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION
AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

We, the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in the framework of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on 4 and 5 December 2024 at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the main focus of which will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2025,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to 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 (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, in particular Nos. 100, 102, 111, 156, 169, 183, 189 and 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), the 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), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement, 2021), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and ensure 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,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by States in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001) and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (1994) and their respective gender action plans, and in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2014), 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 Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (2018), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2021; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, 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 (Samoa Pathway) (2014), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the Paris Agreement (2016) and subsequent climate change agreements,

Reaffirming also the Pact for the Future, which notes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is our overarching road map for achieving sustainable development, that human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the elimination of all forms of violence against them are essential prerequisites for sustainable development,

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), the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), the Santiago Commitment (2020), and the Buenos Aires Commitment (2022),

Considering the importance of strengthening the coordinated work between the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, furthering efforts to successfully mainstream the gender perspective into the discussions, action and agreements of these bodies and in intergovernmental meetings to ensure that gender equality and the rights of all women, adolescents and girls are reflected in the work of the Commission and contribute to public policies that will have a positive impact on the region's sustainable development,

Concerned by the worsening economic, social and environmental situation resulting from the prevailing development model and multidimensional and interrelated international health, care, energy, food, financial security crises, the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and global climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and the high level of public debt in many countries of the region, and by the implications thereof for the progress made in gender equality, as regards both formal equality and substantive equality, the guarantee of the rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, the exercise of their autonomy, and sustainable development in the different national contexts of the region,

Reaffirming the need to ensure the exercise of women's rights and their autonomy, in particular in the current context marked by the resurgence of conservative positions that amount to a threat of possible backsliding for women's rights,

Reaffirming also our commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and of subsequent five-year reviews and appraisals of implementation, and to the Regional Gender Agenda and to the acceleration of its full and effective implementation, agree to:

1. *Recognize* the gains and lessons learned in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the national level, in synergy with the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, despite the structural and emerging challenges facing the region;

2. *Also recognize* the role of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean as a regional forum for discussing and building the Regional Gender Agenda, through which Latin America and the Caribbean contributes to the deliberations of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and other regional and global intergovernmental bodies, increasing awareness of the needs and contributions of women of the region in all their diversity;

3. *Revitalize* the Commission on the Status of Women to promote the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and promote and protect their human rights and to ensure that the Commission is fit for purpose, while reaffirming its mandate;

4. *Reaffirm* the commitments undertaken in the declarations adopted at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth, sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in the framework of the sixtieth, sixty-second, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Also reaffirm* the commitment to take all necessary and progressive measures so that States, as duty bearers, will accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization at the highest level of machineries for the advancement of women, including at ministerial or equivalent level, reinforcing their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy, and the mainstreaming of gender at the different levels and branches of the State, increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with civic participation;

6. *Ensure* that machineries for the advancement of women are afforded the highest level in government hierarchy, supported by the normative framework, so that, in executing their functions, they can fulfil their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy, and ensure that gender equality perspective is mainstreamed throughout the State structure, at all levels of government and branches of the State;

7. *Welcome* the document *Action for equality, development and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean: draft regional report on the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years on, in synergy with the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda*¹ and the key developments and challenges in the region identified therein, in the following six thematic areas: (i) inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work, (ii) poverty eradication, social protection and social services, (iii) eradication of violence, stigma and stereotypes, (iv) participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions, (v) peaceful and inclusive societies, and (vi) environmental conservation, protection and restoration;

8. *Accelerate*, as a matter of urgency, efforts to overcome the four structural challenges of gender inequality, namely socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty, discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of a culture of privilege, the sexual division of labour and the unfair social organization of care, and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere;

9. *Recognize* care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State, adopting regulatory frameworks, policies and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of workplace and sexual harassment in formal and informal work, and that free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment, education, public and political life and the economy, and enjoy their autonomy to the full;

¹ LC/MDM.66/3.

10. *Promote* and adopt progressive fiscal policies, allocate budgets with a gender perspective and implement specific financing mechanisms to ensure sufficient, non-transferable, sustainable resources that cover all levels and areas of public policy aimed at reversing gender inequalities and guaranteeing the rights of women, adolescents and girls, including the right to care;

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

12. *Promote* gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems through coordinated work between bodies that produce and use information and guaranteeing the allocation of a sufficient budget and the periodicity of measurements and the dissemination of information;

13. *Also promote* the adoption of a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in the production and use of statistical information, which will shed light on the multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination and violence against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and throughout their lives, as well as a territorial perspective that fosters the integration of statistical and georeferenced information to identify the demand and supply of care in the territories;

14. *Reaffirm* the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations and movements, and those of Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, migrant women, young women and LGBTI+ persons, and those of women defenders of human and environmental rights, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations and with the State 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;

15. *Call upon* international and regional intergovernmental bodies, parliaments and civil society and other stakeholders to support government efforts and, where appropriate, to develop complementary programmes of their own to achieve full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action;

16. *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 building and strengthening capacities with a view to accelerating the application of the Regional Gender Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the commitments undertaken at this sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

17. *Emphasize* the need to promote and strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation for development, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, noting with concern that there are still structural problems aggravated by the decline in official development assistance and concessional finance for countries of the region, and recognize the urgency of concrete and immediate action to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes to increase investment in gender equality policies, women's rights and sustainable development with an intersectional approach;

18. *Encourage* a systemic change in the approach to migration from a gender, intersectoral, intercultural and human rights perspective to highlight the contributions made to societies by migrant, displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and the elimination of the structural conditions that expose them to vulnerability in the migration cycle, including smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls;

19. *Foster* cooperation among States and support for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to explore debt relief options for highly indebted countries and promote solutions to address debt overhang and secure the necessary resources for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Reject* unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, including the right to development, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls that are worsened in times of crisis;

21. *Highlight* the need to mainstream a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in sustainable development policies, international climate finance and funding for disaster risk management and reduction, and to significantly increase financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries, ensuring that such resources are additional to official development assistance, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and also ensuring enhanced access to such funding in order to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable, including funding for women's and feminist organizations;

22. *Express* solidarity with women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity in conflict situations around the world and urgently call for the promotion of multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law and to maintain international peace and security, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

23. *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 this regional consultation prior to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

24. *Disseminate* this declaration among the ministries of foreign affairs of the governments of the region, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to the negotiation of the political declaration that will be adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

25. *Request* the Government of Costa Rica, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, to present this declaration as the input from Latin America and the Caribbean to the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Annex 1

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF BARBADOS

The Government of Barbados has reviewed the abovementioned draft Declaration and wishes to express the following statement as an Annex to this document:

Executive Secretary,

Barbados fully supports gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and subsequent international agreements.

Barbados therefore prefers to use language which is consistent with the Beijing Declaration and in accordance with our constitution and national laws. As such, Barbados is not supportive of the use of the term “women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity” which is not defined in international law and does not find expression in our national laws and suggest instead "all women and girls".

Best Regards,

Jehu Wiltshire
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs
4th Floor Warrens Office Complex
Warrens,
St. Michael BB23028
Barbados

Annex 2

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF PARAGUAY¹

El Ministerio de la Mujer, tiene el honor de dirigirse a la Secretaría de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, en el marco de la 66° Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, realizada en coordinación con la Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres), que se llevan a cabo los días 4 y 5 de diciembre del corriente en la sede de la CEPAL, en Santiago, Chile.

Al respecto, en el entendimiento de que la finalidad de la 66 Reunión de la Mesa Directiva es la aprobación de los acuerdos de la Reunión y la adopción de la declaración de las Ministras y Altas Autoridades de los Mecanismos Nacionales para el Adelanto de las Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe, manifiesta oficialmente que solicita la inclusión del siguiente párrafo como nota aclaratoria de ambos documentos:

"La República del Paraguay se adhiere a la Declaración de las Ministras y Altas Autoridades de los Mecanismos Nacionales para el Adelanto de las Mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe, así como a los Acuerdos, de la 66ª Reunión de la Mesa Directiva de la Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, dejando constancia de que estos serán aplicados e interpretados en el marco de su Constitución Nacional y legislación nacional vigente. No se regirá por términos o referencias que colisionen con su marco normativo."

El Ministerio de la Mujer, reitera a la Secretaría de la Comisión su agradecimiento y más alta consideración.

¹ This note is reproduced in the language in which it was given. A courtesy translation by the secretariat follows.

COURTESY TRANSLATION BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Ministry of Women's Affairs presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), on 4 and 5 December 2024 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

In that regard, on the understanding that the purpose of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers is the adoption of the agreements of the meeting and the adoption of the declaration by the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Ministry officially requests the inclusion in both documents of the following paragraph as clarification:

"The Republic of Paraguay adheres to the declaration by the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to the agreements of the sixty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, noting that these will be applied and interpreted in accordance with the Constitution of Paraguay and existing national legislation. It shall not be governed by terms or references that are incompatible with its regulatory framework."

The Ministry of Women's Affairs reiterates its gratitude and highest consideration to the secretariat of the Commission.

Annex 3

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF SAINT LUCIA

Please see below Saint Lucia's submission to be annexed in regard to the draft declaration and agreements in the context of the 66th Meeting of Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Saint Lucia fully supports gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Saint Lucia wishes to submit the following footnote in keeping with legal guidance.

The Government of Saint Lucia is guided by the provisions of its Constitution, which promotes and protects the human rights, nondiscrimination, and fundamental freedoms of all persons, and the preservation of the rule of law. All persons are provided the same level of protection in accordance with the constitution of Saint Lucia. The Government of Saint Lucia places reservations on all provisions of this resolution that are contrary to its domestic law and those that its domestic laws do not address and will not be bound by any provisions within said provisions.

Your kind attention and cooperation are appreciated. Grateful for acknowledgement of this correspondence.

Regards.

Janey Joseph (Ms)
Director - Gender Affairs
Department of Gender Affairs
Cnr of High and Chisel Street
Castries