

Speech by María Noel Vaeza, Regional Director of the Regional Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for the Americas and the Caribbean for the Preparations and Roadmap for the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 2025) of the 66th Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women.

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To be honest, it's exciting not to know that we already have a roadmap to get to Tenochtitlan, to be in the center of Mexico City from the 12th to the 15th of August.

It will be a birthday present for me because my birthday is the 24th, so imagine: fantastic! The truth is that it is wonderful that we already have the date we are going to start working.

With Ana Gúezmes, we are already thinking about this with ECLAC and, of course, with the Government of Mexico. The Civil Society Forum is also very important for us, the self-convened Forum, which, fortunately, we are always supporting and of course, we will continue to support. In Argentina it was wonderful, the Civil Society Forum, and I imagine that Mexico will be incredible as well.

We also want to have a youth forum [Applause].

We will coordinate with the United Nations agencies that are working closely with youth so that together, we can have a common front to carry out this Forum. And finally, the Parliamentary Forum, which will be fundamental, as we had 100 women parliamentarians in Argentina, in Buenos Aires, we want the same, to have more women if possible, because without parliaments, we cannot pass the legislation we need.

Today is a day to congratulate Brazil because more than half an hour ago, the law establishing a care system in Brazil was passed. [Applause]

The Mexican Parliament is passing transformative legislation. Thanks to the President who has sent this package of constitutional and legal reforms, it will be a pleasure to be in the House of Democracy in Mexico with prominent women legislators who are the presidents of the Gender Commission of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress.

The Regional Conference continues to grow with all of you incredible women from Latin America and the Caribbean.

We will accompany the Government of Mexico throughout this process with ECLAC. So we will see you in Mexico.

Thank you very much.