Closing Remarks Bibiana Aido Almagro, 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, at the 67th Executive Committee of the Regional Conference on Women

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Thank you very much, Luis [Yañez]. Thank you, Ana [Güezmes], and thank you very much for joining us during these two days of the Presiding Officers' Meeting, both to those of you here in the room and to those who have accompanied us and continue to accompany us virtually.

My sincere appreciation to Gabriela Rivadeneira, Director-General for Technical Cooperation at the Secretariat for Women of Mexico, as Chair of the Presiding Officers, and to Ambassador Jennifer Feller. Thank you for the feminist leadership with which you have assumed the presidency of this Presiding Officers' Meeting.

I would also like to acknowledge, of course, the ECLAC team, which always welcomes us with open arms. Thank you for this effective and very fruitful partnership.

A special acknowledgment to the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, José Manuel Salazar, to the Secretary of the Commission — thank you, José Manuel.

And a very warm embrace, of course, to the Director of the Division for Gender Affairs, dear Ana Güezmes. Thank you for your leadership and thank you to your entire team.

My deep gratitude to my team, to the UN Women team: to Moni Pizani, Gabriela Rosero, Bárbara Ortiz, Leah Tandeter; to Cecilia Alemany, who has also joined us virtually; and to the teams of both the Regional Office and the Country Office in Chile. Thank you for all your work and your ongoing commitment.

We close this Presiding Officers' Meeting, as my dear Ana Güezmes rightly said, with the satisfaction not only of having shared with all of you a highly substantive working space — in which we have exchanged experiences and broadened our knowledge on different issues — but also of continuing to consolidate this intergovernmental space to advance our commitment to the human rights of women and girls in the region.

The discussions were tremendously inspiring; they were excellent. Many thanks to all the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women, who both in person and virtually have shared their experiences and reflections on the progress and challenges their countries face. I believe that by sharing these experiences and having sound diagnoses of reality, we can better move forward and close gaps.

And of course, thank you to the representatives of feminist organizations, women's organizations, and civil society for your contributions, your advocacy, and your permanent inspiration.

We celebrate the agreements adopted today by the Presiding Officers. These agreements strengthen our region's commitment to the rights and autonomy of women, particularly to guaranteeing access to justice, and allow us to arrive at the Commission on the Status of Women, at CSW70, with a common position that continues to demonstrate that Latin America and the Caribbean remain at the forefront of gender equality and of the rights and autonomy of women and girls in all their diversity.

Now, the key task is to be strategic — to continue building alliances to ensure that these agreements resonate in the negotiations that will take place within the framework of CSW70, because access to justice is the right that guarantees the exercise of all other rights.
Our goal must therefore be to ensure that access to justice becomes a reality for all women and girls, especially for those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, inequality, and violence. States have the obligation to dismantle the structural barriers that have historically restricted the exercise of this right.

I would also like to thank the experts from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Rhoda Reddock and Patsilí Toledo, for sharing information regarding General Recommendation No. 41 on gender

stereotypes. Without a doubt, this constitutes a decisive step forward in strengthening international standards and guiding States in eliminating a phenomenon that continues to affect the lives of millions of women and girls around the world.

From UN Women, we will also be supporting this process through a regional consultation to be held at the beginning of next year, in the first months of 2026. And in these days, we have also exchanged ideas on concrete actions planned for the implementation of the Tlatelolco Commitment and its Decade of Action. We are advancing in defining a regional framework for action to strengthen institutions, participation, resource mobilization, and accountability in care policies, in close collaboration with feminist organizations and civil society. Now we need allocated financing and political action to achieve this transformative change.

As has been highlighted in many interventions, our region has a solid normative framework, with clear standards to ensure access to justice with a gender perspective, with an intersectional lens, and with reinforced due diligence. But the step towards full and effective implementation remains a tremendous challenge. We need stronger political will — and that must be translated into concrete actions with dedicated budgets.

Likewise, for the effective implementation of the bi-regional care pact, which we have also discussed, we have a clear horizon: together, we can build comprehensive care systems on both sides of the Atlantic, with shared

standards between both regions, moving toward social and state co-responsibility.

I would like to highlight, lastly, the session on the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminist Movements and Organizations. Since its first edition, this fund has reached 35 organizations in 13 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We have seen remarkable growth in its reach and impact, but we need much more. I would like to thank the countries that are joining the Board — and of course Colombia for remaining — and I also thank Chile and Uruguay. It is important, and we hope many more will join, along with the civil society organizations that accompany this work. A special acknowledgment to the UN Women team dedicated to managing the fund, and I truly encourage all countries in the region, the donor community, and the agencies of the United Nations system to contribute with concrete funding to sustain this fund.

At a time when access to resources for civil society organizations is increasingly complex, initiatives like this are critical to ensure that feminist and women's organizations can continue their work.

We must continue raising our voices, strengthening institutions, and defending gender equality and the rights of women and girls in every space — and defending multilateralism with concrete responses, which is something this region does so successfully. So, each of us, from our respective roles and spheres of influence — as the President reminded us

— occupying every space, has a role to play so that the women and girls of our region can live lives free from violence, exercise their rights freely, and so that we advance toward substantive equality and toward the realization of a care society.

With this call to action, and with thanks to Chile and its authorities for their excellent hospitality, I once again thank you for your participation and wish you a very safe return to your countries, with renewed energy to continue rowing together — with the awareness and conviction that, in these times, risks are enormous, but so too is our capacity to act.

Thank you very much.