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

Virtual meeting, 8 and 9 February 2023

**DECLARATION BY MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES
OF THE NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

WHOSE PRIORITY THEME IS

**“INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AND EDUCATION
IN THE DIGITAL AGE FOR ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND
THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS”**

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



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-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on 8 and 9 February 2023 at the special regional consultation prior to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” and which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 17 March 2023,

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, adolescent girls 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 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (1994), 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 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,

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),

Concerned by the worsening economic, social and environmental situation resulting from multiple and interrelated international health, care, energy, food and financial crises, the increasing challenges posed by 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 the implications thereof for the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of the rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region,

Recognizing that rapid technological change, which intensified during the pandemic, including new and emerging digital technologies, has an impact on women's employment opportunities and can accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and the autonomy of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, and facilitate efforts to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity in public life, and that more attention needs to be paid to the impacts of such technological change on women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity,

Recognizing also the importance of promoting equal access to information and communications technologies that are affordable and accessible, as well as digital literacy and capacity-building, access to financing in this area, working towards closing the gender digital divide, and targeting science, technology and innovation strategies to overcome the structural obstacles to gender equality and promote the autonomy of all women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and women's full, equal and effective participation in public life,

Considering the widening gap between developed and developing countries in access to information and communications technologies, and the new dimensions of the digital divide, which undermine the autonomy of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and limit their full development,

Stressing the urgent need for capacity-building to create, share and utilize digital technologies to benefit from the new digital revolution and accelerate the economic and social transformation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in order to speed up progress towards achieving gender equality and the autonomy of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity,

Recognizing that all forms of violence and discrimination, including in digital contexts, prevent women from exercising their equal right to participate in all spheres of public life, and emphasizes that their participation is essential to improving the work of public institutions and strengthening policy outcomes,

Recognizing also that mainstreaming gender in the digital economy forms a crucial component of progressive structural change aimed at increasing the share of knowledge-intensive production activities in the economy, enhancing competitiveness and making progress towards social inclusion, as well as the full, significant and equal participation of women and the reduction of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and the autonomy of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, agree to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and international commitments with respect to technological transformation and the digital ecosystem, gender equality, women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, and the full enjoyment of their human rights, with a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective, which will allow progress towards achieving sustainable development;

2. *Recognize* that women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their life cycle, and that it is therefore necessary to respect and appreciate their diversity of situations and conditions and shed light on the fact that they face barriers to their autonomy and to the exercise of their rights, and that it is necessary to adopt intersectional strategies to address their specific needs, affording particular attention to the feminization of poverty in the region;

3. *Reiterate* the call to advance recovery plans with proactive measures to achieve substantive equality that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work, women's participation in the spheres of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the full, significant and equal participation of women in positions of leadership in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

4. *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 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;

5. *Promote* intersectoral public policies that include affirmative action to foster women's and girls' participation, continuation and completion of education in the spheres of science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

6. *Stress* that education is a human right, and that full and equal access to education, including comprehensive sexuality education, training and science and technology empowers women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity throughout the life cycle in a context of economic and technological change at the global level;

7. *Ensure* the provision through the education system, at all levels and with respect to all forms of teaching, of accessible and timely information to women in all their diversity, especially girls, adolescent girls and young women, older women, Indigenous, Afrodescendent and rural women, women with disabilities and LGBTI+ persons, among others, about the benefits, usefulness and availability of vocational training opportunities in science and technology, which would contribute to their personal, economic, social and political autonomy;

8. *Adopt* a gender equality, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective in digital policies to ensure the reduction of all digital gender gaps, with special attention to integrating girls, adolescent girls and women into society, as promoted by the Regional Alliance for Women's Digitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean;

9. *Encourage* labour participation of women in all their diversity in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, eliminating occupational segregation and all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence ensuring decent work and wage equality, in particular in emerging sectors, including the digital economy, that are key to structural change with equality and the decarbonization of economies;

10. *Support* the digital entrepreneurship of women, including in e-commerce, including for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, to develop local solutions and relevant content and promote innovation and decent job creation;

11. *Improve* and broaden women's access to technology, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and to promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the responsiveness of such technologies to the needs of women in all their diversity;

12. *Design* and carry out periodical ex ante and ex post assessments of the effects of technologies with respect to gender equality in such areas as women's employment, health, including sexual and reproductive health, the protection of the ancestral knowledge of women, adolescent girls and girls of different indigenous, ethnic and racial groups, harassment and violence through technological means, natural resources and production methods;

13. *Promote* strategies and policies in relation to the prevention and investigation of cybercrime, as well as violence in digital contexts against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, with a focus on violence against women human rights defenders and women engaged in public life, and new forms of violence, such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying and privacy violations, that include the development of State capacities, the implementation of international standards in terms of statistics and indicators, and the creation and strengthening of regional assistance and cooperation networks;

14. *Enforce* national laws and policies to combat violence against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity in the media and in the use of information and communications technologies, considering the nature of these spheres and the risks they involve for women in all their diversity;

15. *Promote* co-responsible and non-violent masculinities with a view to transforming gender roles and stereotypes, through the full participation of men and boys as strategic partners for achieving gender equality, including through education, communication and awareness-raising programmes;

16. *Improve* measurement of the adoption of digital technologies in the economy and society, and strengthen the production and harmonization of official statistics, with special emphasis on the proposed goals of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean and indicators with a gender dimension;

17. *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, and ensure the disaggregation and dissemination of data on science, technology and innovation by sex, age, race and ethnic origin, socioeconomic status and area of residence, among others, in order to improve analyses to reflect the diversity of situations of women, adolescent girls and girls;

18. *Actively support* the participation of women's and feminist organizations and movements, including those of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women, women with disabilities and LGBTI+ persons, among others, in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on technological transformation and the digital ecosystem;

19. *Strengthen* policies and mechanisms for regulating digital financial technologies at all levels of government and coordination systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to develop standards on records, content and uses of data across countries and to ensure the individual's rights to privacy and to personal data protection, and promote financial and digital education to ensure that women's financial inclusion is informed and fair;

20. *Encourage*, in the framework of the United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism, commitments regarding access to and the exchange, transfer and dissemination of technology under favourable, concessional and preferential conditions, and promote multidimensional evaluation to ensure that technology transfers are safe, socially appropriate, environmentally sustainable, and in keeping with commitments relating to the human rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and gender equality;

21. *Call upon* the international community to take the necessary measures to ensure that all countries of the world have equitable and affordable access to information and communications technologies, so that their benefits in the fields of socioeconomic development and bridging the gender digital divides are truly transformative;

22. *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, and limit the benefits of the information technology revolution, which are today unevenly distributed between developed and developing countries and within societies, and turn these digital divides into digital opportunities for all;

23. *Encourage* subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation programmes on technological transformation and the digital ecosystem through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation modalities, as well as between national machineries for the advancement of women, that promote gender equality and the autonomy of women in all their diversity;

24. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for their contribution to this special regional consultation prior to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

25. *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 conclusions that will be adopted at the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

26. *Congratulate* the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, for its contributions in moderating the special regional consultation prior to the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request it to convey this declaration, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-seventh session.