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REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santo Domingo, 15-18 October 2013

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in compliance with ECLAC resolution 667(XXXIV) and was held in Santo Domingo, from 15 to 18 October 2013.

Attendance¹

2. Representatives of the following States members of the Commission participated in the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay.

3. Representatives of the following associate members of the Commission also participated: Curaçao, Montserrat, Puerto Rico and Turks and Caicos Islands.

4. The session was attended by the following officials from the United Nations Secretariat: the Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; and the Senior Gender Adviser of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

5. Also present were representatives of the following United Nations funds, programmes and bodies: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Food Programme (WFP).

6. The following United Nations specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were present: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Organization of American States (OAS), Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA); Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB), Central American Integration System (SICA) and Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

8. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and other non-governmental organizations also attended the session.

¹ See annex 4.

Election of Presiding Officers

- 9. The Conference elected the following Presiding Officers:
 - <u>Chair</u>: Dominican Republic
 - Vice-Chairs: Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Brazil Chile Costa Rica Cuba El Salvador Jamaica Mexico Panama Paraguay Peru Puerto Rico Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Uruguay.

Agenda

- 10. At its first plenary meeting, the Conference adopted the following agenda:
 - 1. Election of officers.
 - 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 - 3. Activities carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System since the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - 4. Presentation of the position paper *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold.*
 - 5. Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference.
 - 6. Other matters.

B. PROCEEDINGS²

Opening session

11. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Carissa Etienne, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); Eleonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil; Alejandrina Germán, Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic; and Danilo Medina, President of the Dominican Republic.

12. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC, affirming the importance of rights-based equality and the role of education in achieving it, said that the ECLAC agenda looked forward to equality as the long-term objective, structural change as the path and policy as the instrument. The aim was growth for equality and equality for growth, with macroeconomic, production and social policies, and with a State that redistributed the overall work burden between men and women, and also between the family, the State and the market. She then referred to two important features that had characterized the conferences held previously: continuity in upholding the principle of equality as the main thread running through the proposals put forward and innovation as the capacity to coordinate and mainstream the gender perspective in all public policies. She highlighted three important conclusions from the position paper *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold*: (i) opportunities were not equitably distributed between countries or regions; (ii) increasing access to information technologies did not in itself narrow the gender digital divide; and (iii) public policies were needed to overcome neutrality. She added that employment with rights was the key to equality and that the building of rights called for passion, sensitivity and imagination.

13. The Executive Director of UN-Women said that, looking forward to the development agenda beyond 2015, the Entity had proposed a specific goal on equality and women's empowerment, and the mainstreaming of gender throughout the other goals. She noted the need to close gaps in access to and use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in order to strengthen democracy, equality, women's empowerment and inclusive economic growth. She added that, by incorporating these technologies into strategies for poverty reduction and gender equality, women and society in general could enjoy improvements in the areas of education, health and trade. Recalling the importance of policy and regulatory frameworks on advocacy at the national and local levels, she said that policies on ICTs must be not only "smart", but also "wise", guided by rights, values and fundamental aspirations such as gender equality.

14. The Director of PAHO said that many girls and women still faced great difficulties in relation to the enjoyment of their fundamental human right to access to basic health services. The statistics indicated that women lived longer, but that fact masked data showing that, on average, their quality of life was poorer and they were more likely to suffer from chronic and degenerative diseases. It was not idealistic to aspire to good-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care or universal access to the social determinants of health since the technology, resources, knowledge and experience necessary to achieve them existed. ICTs were essential to locking in the progress made and moving forward on the agenda on women's rights, but optimizing the use of technology required political commitment and public-private

² The statements and presentations are available on the website of the Conference [online] at http://www.cepal.org/12conferenciamujer/default.asp?idioma=IN

partnerships. Lastly, the ICT revolution could be harnessed to advance gender equality, including the right to health of girls and women, and PAHO supported efforts aimed at implementing a regional strategy on e-health and finding innovative collaborative solutions.

15. The Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil and outgoing Chair of the Presiding Officers said that the Brasilia Consensus, reached at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010 and containing significant agreements on women's rights in a number of areas, and the Montevideo Consensus, adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean held in 2013, served as references for progress towards gender equality in the region. Guaranteeing the continuity of the commitments undertaken in those forums was paramount and she advocated the pursuit of further agreements to take action, with a gender perspective, in the field of ICTs, with a view to eliminating gender inequalities in a society with a changing technological paradigm. She stressed that the twelfth session of the Regional Conference should promote the inclusion of gender issues in all their forms in the international development agenda and strengthen the campaign for human rights, including women's sexual and reproductive rights, in order to globalize human dignity and build fully democratic societies that were free from discrimination.

16. The Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic, in her capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers, highlighted the progress made in recent decades in the region on the advancement of women and detailed some of the policies and actions that governments had implemented to fulfil the recommendations made at previous conferences, but said that there remained many challenges. The focus of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference —gender equality, women's empowerment and ICTs—transcended the critical issues of equality and centred the debate on the opportunities and challenges that the new ICT paradigm embodied for achieving women's autonomy and their contribution to peace and sustainable development. She stressed the need to take positive measures to promote women's involvement in vocational training and research in all fields of science and technology, and reflected on the commitment that governments should make to embracing the opportunities and challenges presented by ICTs to promote, accelerate and achieve equality and women's empowerment.

17. The President of the Dominican Republic thanked the delegations for the trust placed in his country for the organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a forum that provided an opportunity for his government to renew its commitment to Dominican women. New technologies offered very valuable tools to move forward on gender equality by eliminating the digital divide and increasing the participation of women in the fields of science and technology. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of the Dominican Republic to support women with specific policies at all stages and in all facets of life, with particular emphasis on protecting women from violence, and he referred to various measures taken to facilitate access to credit, encourage entrepreneurship among women and promote cooperatives in rural areas. He highlighted various education initiatives, such as a national literacy plan, in which women made up the majority of participants and which would allow the country to be declared free from illiteracy in 2014; this plan was complemented by an extension of the school day, more scholarships and increased vocational training and adult education opportunities.

Activities carried out by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC secretariat and specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations System since the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

18. The Chair of the Presiding Officers said that, at the forty-ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers, held the day before the opening of the Regional Conference, information had been shared on the virtual forums held in 2013 for the discussion of the draft Santo Domingo Consensus. She said that the national reports of member States on the actions taken in fulfilment of the Brasilia Consensus could be found on the Conference website.³

19. The ECLAC secretariat submitted a report on the activities undertaken by the Commission between 2010 and 2013 and presented the new format to be used in future national reports on the implementation of the consensuses from the regional conferences on women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which could also be found on the Conference website.

Civil society declaration

20. A representative of civil society read the Declaration of the Forum of Feminist Organizations, which stressed that, for more than three decades, feminists, indigenous, Afro-descendent, peasant and mestiza women, women with disabilities, lesbian, heterosexual, bisexual and transsexual women, female sex workers, women with HIV/AIDS, young and older women had been building democracy with social and gender justice in the most unequal region in the world. The ideal motivating them was the same: ensuring the fulfilment of the universal rights of all people. She noted that the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action provided for the use of new technologies as a means of discussing issues and exchanging ideas and global information, and as a tool for building equality. Twenty years on, the new information and communications technologies had transformed the economic, political and cultural sphere, modes of production, interpersonal relationships, education, policy management and public services, but that spectacular development had not benefited all social groups to the same extent. She urged States to ratify, reaffirm and redouble efforts to effectively apply and fully enforce the Brasilia Consensus, as well as the consensuses adopted at previous regional conferences on women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

<u>Presentation of the position paper *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold* (agenda item 4)</u>

21. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC presented the position paper *Women in the digital economy: breaking through the equality threshold* and said that the paper had been prepared in two stages: first, a discussion had been held on the annotated contents which had been circulated in consultation with the countries between November 2011 and February 2012 and the theme had been agreed at the 46th meeting of the Presiding Officers (agreement 2); second, three preparatory meetings for the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at which the governments of the countries, having read the draft position paper, had had an opportunity to submit their comments.⁴ That which was not named did not exist and that which was not counted did not count. She recalled three key words from the Fourth World Conference on Women: mechanisms, resources and decision. She went on

³ See [online] http://www.eclac.cl/12conferenciamujer/default.asp?idioma=IN.

⁴ See [online] http://www.cepal.org/id.asp?id=46202; http://www.cepal.org/id.asp?id=49964 and http://www.cepal.org/id.asp?id=49776.

to reflect on the purpose of the Conference. Discrimination was systemic and eradicating violence was essential, and she urged countries to give the same priority to women's economic autonomy. Only half of all women had access to the labour market —many of them in domestic service— and those who did suffered vertical and horizontal segregation. Employment remained elusive for women only on grounds of discrimination. In the digital economy, the same type of gap was reproduced as in education and politics. Although there was greater equality of access to ICTs, inequality persisted in the use of technology, which constituted the second digital divide. Internet content remained markedly sexist. The high demand for reform in the field of education called for a change in educational structures and the way in which knowledge was built. ICTs were an essential and cross-cutting support for all economic, political, cultural and social activities, as well as a productive sector in their own right. In that regard, ICTs could be allies in achieving equality and helping reduce gender inequities, as well as in analysing the interaction between the social gap and the gender digital divide, working on the basis that women's access to technology was indispensable —though not enough on its own— to gaining access to opportunities in a context of highly dynamic technological development.

Round table: Production and equality

22. The round table was moderated by Alejandrina Germán, Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic. It involved the participation of Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic; Mayi Antillón Guerrero, Minister of Economic Affairs, Industry and Commerce of Costa Rica; Mario Cimoli, Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC; Mónica Aspe, Coordinator of the Information and Knowledge Society of the Secretariat of Communications and Transport of Mexico; Ángela M. Camacho, Associate General Counsel for Microsoft Latin America; and Benita Ferrero-Waldner, President of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation.

23. The Vice-President of the Dominican Republic presented two videos: one on digital literacy and the other on the use of ICTs to generate income. She noted that the Conference was taking place in the homeland of the Mirabal sisters.⁵ She congratulated the new Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and pledged support during her tenure over the subsequent three years. Public policymakers should recognize that reducing the gender gap in labour markets called for alternatives to women's work in the household and the application of social, economic and technology policies conducive to the effective integration of women in the digital economy. The Vice-President also said that the Dominican Republic had a network of 94 Community Technology Centres in as many municipalities across the country that served as a springboard to development for hundreds of thousands of women nationwide.

24. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Industry and Commerce of Costa Rica presented a project being carried out through a public-private institutional network, with the support of ECLAC and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), to improve women's economic autonomy in Costa Rica.⁶ To that end, cross-cutting efforts had involved various ministries in order to identify the sectors in which women worked in Costa Rica. Since a one-size-fits-all public policy could not be applied, it was

⁵ The Mirabal sisters —Patria, Minerva and María Teresa— were beaten to death on 25 November 1960 under the dictatorship of Leónidas Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and are a symbol of the struggle to end violence against women worldwide. In their honour, 25 November was declared the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

⁶ The project "Promotion of productive development through the inclusion of women in quality employment in Central America" was being implemented in Costa Rica and El Salvador.

first necessary to distinguish between the different production sectors: 96% of Costa Rican companies were micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), of which almost 70% were small businesses and, of those, 60% were headed by women. Under the project a support network of 34 entities from the government, academic, financial, business and cooperation sectors had been created. In the second phase, there were plans to launch a pilot project with 40 women involved throughout the entire production value chain in order to implement, consolidate and strengthen the respective project workplan.

25. The Chief of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC said that new technologies were aligned with the old hierarchies and the weakest and most excluded sectors continued to lag behind in the technological age. He stressed that if industrial and technology policy did not move forward in the coming years, the process of exclusion would accelerate. For this reason, industrial and technology policy must be inclusive and should shape production processes, with particular emphasis on robotics and cloud computing. The exclusion process would hit the vulnerable hardest, especially women. Therefore industrial policies had to plan ahead for the future workforce. He urged women to aim high and for countries to incorporate a gender perspective into regulatory and competition policy. Lastly, in addition to the cultural hegemony of Gramsci, productive hegemony also had to be taken into account.

26. The Associate General Counsel for Microsoft Latin America emphasized the responsibility of private enterprise in the digital inclusion of women in the region. Women made up 50% of the population, and it was therefore vital to accelerate their inclusion and the participation of women in leadership roles. To close the gap in the digital economy, production development policies could not be neutral. Microsoft had achieved positive results from the internal policies it had developed to contribute to the recruitment and promotion of women. It was important to have a list of female candidates for vacant posts and also to ensure that women were on the interview panels during selection processes. Action was being taken to encourage more women to enter the fields of science and computing, such as the DigiGirlz programme that encouraged girls to consider careers in science or the Imagine Cup programme developed with UN-Women.

27. The President of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation said that during the last Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union had culminated in a biregional work plan for 2013-2015, which included the participation of women in the political process, their full inclusion in the labour market and in decision-making, and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. Progress in relation to the world of work was key and, in that connection, education was essential, with university and vocational training representing pivotal opportunities for societies to promote a culture in favour of gender equality, with the acceptance that housework should be shared between men and women and that a support structure was needed for the provision of family care. She also referred to the development of joint activities between the two regions to promote the participation of women in ICTs, as well as to the existing internal barriers and the predominantly male environment.

28. In the discussion that followed the participants commended the Government of the Dominican Republic and ECLAC for the preparation of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The representatives of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and Spain commented on the importance of analysing the link between productive development, equality and gender-based violence; generating clear commitments to achieve real equality; making changes so that women were not subject to layoffs, precarious jobs in the informal market and low wages; and promoting and strengthening the participation of women in new technologies to advance inclusion.

29. The Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic thanked the panellists and acknowledged that the countries of the region had made great strides in boosting participation in the productive sector and in relation to ICTs, but that they continued to face significant challenges. She added that in many countries men had joined women in the struggle for gender equality.

30. The first panel, entitled "Work and employment in information and communication technologies", was moderated by Gloria Shillingford, Minister of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs of Dominica. The panellists were: Temístocles Montás, Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic; Jennifer Webster, Minister of Human Services and Social Security of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security of Guyana; Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union; and Bárbara Geraldo de Castro, Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences of the State University at Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil.

31. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic spoke on the employment situation of Dominican women in the ICT sector. Such technologies had had an impact on productivity, innovation, economic growth and social inclusion, and the Dominican Republic had adopted a policy framework to encourage the use of ICTs with a gender perspective. Employment in the sector accounted for 1% of all jobs in the Dominican Republic and although the sector was maledominated, call centres were a significant source of female employment.

32. The Minister of Human Services and Social Security of Guyana said that women's access to ICTs and, in particular, the use of such technologies in economic activities, should be promoted. She stressed that governments should favour women's access to science by first encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in science. The Government of Guyana had launched a One Laptop per Family programme, which was similar to programmes that provided one laptop per child, but added the element of women's access to technology. The Caribbean should prioritize the creation of a regional digital strategy establishing a regulatory system as well as a broad communications structure to foster a community digital culture. Lastly, she stressed that investment in women had a multiplier effect, as they reinvested in their families and communities.

33. The Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union said that as long as decisionmaking, discussions on the Internet, specialized tools and expertise were in the hands of men, it would be very difficult to improve the situation of women in all fields.

34. The panellist from the Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences at UNICAMP referred to the culturally constructed social roles of men and women that casted women in the role of communicators who were therefore best suited to resolving relationship problems, while men were supposedly more analytical and therefore more adept at programming. Those social constructs had to be tackled in order to change the situation of women. As long as housework was not considered work, women would continue to experience difficulties integrating into the paid labour market.

35. In the ensuing discussion the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Curaçao, Dominica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands agreed that, although women have made great strides in the areas of economic empowerment and ICTs, significant gaps remained. They stressed that technology was the global language of the labour force and as such it should be developed and given a female face. The speakers described the progress made and challenges that remained in their countries in relation to ICT, education and the economic autonomy of

women, girls and young women. It was noted that excessive workloads were particularly common among indigenous women. Illiteracy prevented women from accessing paid work and, despite the fact that legislation in the countries demanded equal pay for equal work, the reality was that women earned less than men. In addition, it was stressed that the Santo Domingo Consensus should inform the post-2015 agenda so that the digital divide did not become yet another of the gaps to which women were exposed.

36. The second panel, entitled "Policies on access to information and communications technologies" was moderated by Eleonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil. The panellists were: Erlinda Handal Vega, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador; Rowland Espinosa, Vice-Minister of Telecommunications in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica; Cecilia Castaño Collado, Co-Director of the Masters Programme on gender equality in social sciences, Complutense University of Madrid; and Jeannette Paillán, Chair of the Latin American Indigenous Peoples' Cinema and Communications Network (CLACPI), Chile.

37. The Vice-Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador said that her government was making a major effort to spread ICTs in the education sector and had introduced the programme Bridging the Knowledge Gap (CBC), which had had a very positive impact on families in rural areas and involved whole communities. The programme promoted the responsible use of technology to prevent the use of violent games.

38. The Vice-Minister of Telecommunications in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica referred to the second digital divide that particularly affected women. He said that universal Internet access was not yet a reality in Costa Rica and highlighted the policies in place to encourage women to use ICTs, such as the prize for women scientists, the National Science and Technology Fair and the Olympics of Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Robotics.

39. The panellist from the Complutense University of Madrid spoke about access policies with a gender perspective and said that the incorporation of women into the information society was crucial from the point of view of social well-being and competitiveness. Noting that the gap was dynamic and multidimensional, she said that as those who had acquired digital skills improved their position, the people who lacked those skills fell further behind and had ever fewer opportunities. She asserted that the first "material" access gap between men and women was closing, but that the gap in speed and proficiency of use remained. Gender and ICT gaps were not the result of free choice, but a consequence of social expectations and restrictions linked with age and education, and also with prejudices, stereotypes, availability and time use. Lastly she stressed that it was a social and not a technical divide.

40. The Chair of CLACPI examined ICT-related challenges from the perspecitive of indigenous communication. Indigenous women often suffered double discrimination and new technologies could strengthen indigenous communication. She stressed the need to promote cultural diversity in the media.

41. In the subsequent discussion a number of participants agreed that the region should provide special support to indigenous peoples, not only in access to technologies, but also in changing attitudes and cultural patterns.

42. The third panel, entitled "Challenges and risks of information and communication technologies for equality", was moderated by Colin Riley, Minister of Health and Social Services of Montserrat. The panellists were: Jermaine Jewel Jean-Pierre, Director of the Information and Communication Technology Unit of Dominica; Magaly Pineda, Research Centre for Feminist Action (CIPAF) of the Dominican Republic; Alex Sánchez, Spokesperson of the Governing Board of the Panamanian Chamber of

Information and Telecommunications Technologies (CAPATEC); Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, researcher at Northwestern University, United States, and UNFPA consultant on social networking in Latin America and the Caribbean; and Marta Trzcinska Daglig, Managing Director of the Legal Advice for Women Organization (JURK) of Norway.

43. The Director of the Information and Communication Technology Unit of Dominica spoke about the risks and challenges that stood in the way of achieving equality in ICTs. The challenges included overcoming employment disparities in the ICT sector and the low participation of women in decisionmaking. Regarding risks, she said that ICT could lead to gender-based abuse and harassment, the perpetuation of gender stereotypes and equating such technologies with masculinity. ICTs could become a tool used by some women's partners as a means of controlling them. He further stressed that women should take an active role in the development in ICT policies in their countries.

44. The representative of CIPAF identified the ways in which women lagged behind in relation to ICTs. Noting that digital divides were social divides, she reflected on the opportunities that new technologies offered to women, including the role that ICTs could play in transparency in societies, the opportunities for distance education, e-health, access to global medical knowledge, access to information and media campaigns. However, most countries in the region did not have a digital agenda with policies, programmes and projects for women, or with a gender perspective. He stressed that the challenge facing the women's movement and machineries for the advancement of women was influencing national digital strategies. To that end, she stressed the importance of promoting digital literacy to enable women to make use of the tools offered by ICTs.

45. The Spokesperson of CAPATEC analysed several aspects of women's participation in the field of ICTs and reported on the steps taken to include more women in that area.

46. The researcher at Northwestern University referred to the digital communication strategies of the Puerto Rico Women's Movement and presented her research on the activities carried out by feminist organizations in Puerto Rico to achieve empowerment through ICTs.

47. The Managing Director of JURK spoke on the challenges and risks associated with ICTs for equality. Women were harassed online in public discussions, for example, in relation to their appearance or their style of dress. Online harassment was a significant manifestation of the problem of discrimination against women and mobile telephony was also used to subject women to sexual exploitation and to violate their privacy. She highlighted that the Internet had created new forms of and a new space for violence against women.

48. In the discussion that followed the presentations, the representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Spain agreed on the need to eliminate discrimination against women in society, particularly in relation to ICTs.

49. The fourth panel, entitled "Enterprise in the production sector", was moderated by Yanira Argueta, Executive Director of the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), El Salvador. The panellists were José Armando Flores Alemán, Minister of Economic Affairs of El Salvador; Martha Lucía Vásquez Zawadzky, Executive President of the National Association of Business Women and Women Entrepreneurs of Colombia; and Rocío Mantilla Goyzueta, Managing Director of Platería Rocío and Vice-Chair of the Jewellery and Precious Metalwork Committee, Association of Peruvian Exporters (ADEX) of Peru.

50. The Minister of Economic Affairs of El Salvador, referring to the policies on women's economic autonomy in his country, said that El Salvador had adopted a rights-based approach in relation to public policy and had made progress on women's rights. Efforts had been made to promote access to land, credit, housing and inputs for developing and promoting production. He added that women made up a large proportion of those working in cooperatives.

51. The Executive President of the National Association of Business Women and Women Entrepreneurs of Colombia said that her country had deployed various training initiatives, established contacts and had held conferences to support women entrepreneurs. She made reference to the sixth Summit of the Americas held in Cartagena in April 2012. In Colombia more than 40% of MSMEs failed in their first three years of operation, and follow-up should therefore be provided to new businesses set up by women. Lastly, ICTs could play an important role in strengthening women's productive enterprises.

52. The Managing Director and co-owner of Platería Rocío presented the experience of her company. She said that, thanks to ICTs, her company advertised its products and new collections using online catalogues and had begun exporting to over 12 countries. She had attended an ICT training course in the Republic of Korea as part of a delegation of 20 Peruvian women invited by the Association of Peruvian Exporters. Upon their return they had in turn provided ICT training to over 50 women microentrepreneurs.

53. The participants subsequently discussed the failure of microenterprises during their early years and the delegate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela asked how new, more equitable and sustainable models of consumption and production could be developed.

54. The Minister of Economic Affairs of El Salvador said that the failure rate of businesses was a key issue that his government was tackling through a variety of training and financing programmes.

55. The fifth panel, entitled "Statistics and indicators on information and communication technologies and gender", was moderated by Nigeria Rentería Lozano, Presidential Adviser in the Office of the Advisory Council for Women's Equity of Colombia. The panellists were Pablo Tactuk, Director of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic; Martin Schaaper, science and technology specialist at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS); and Elizabeth Talbert, Deputy Director of the Economics and Statistics Office of the Cayman Islands.

56. The panel moderator reviewed the progress and challenges associated with ICTs in Colombia, highlighting in particular the government's digital plan and ICT programme entitled "En TIC Confio" (I trust in ICTs). The government was also implementing an inclusive telework policy, coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and the Office of the Advisory Council for Women's Equity, which opened up important job opportunities for women.

57. The Director of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic said that statistics and indicators on gender and ICTs were fundamental to research and decision-making on any subject. He said the National Statistical Office had gathered data on ICT use and access by including a special module in the national household survey, which had made it possible to measure the differentiated behaviour of men and women with respect to this variable. While no gap had been detected in access to ICTs, there were differences in the use that men and women made of these technologies, with women applying them to a greater extent in the fields of education and health; however, the greatest differences were observed between socioeconomic groups. He noted that while in general more women than men graduated from professional courses, that trend was reversed for ICT-related courses.

58. The science and technology specialist at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) said that it was crucial to take action against the gap in Internet use between men and women at the global level. In 2015, 90% of formal jobs in all sectors would require ICT skills and women currently accounted for only 20% of specialists in that field. Only 14% of countries had policies for women in their national broadband plans. He recommended that the statistical offices of the countries in the region should establish ICT indicators with a gender focus in order that governments might implement informed public policies on science and technology that take into account the situation of women.

59. The Deputy Director of the Economics and Statistics Office of the Cayman Islands, referring to ICT and gender statistics and indicators, enumerated different ways of collecting gender disaggregated statistical information, for example, through censuses, surveys or survey modules, outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each. The majority of the surveys conducted in the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) measured access to ICTs, but not use. Also, since the household is the unit of measurement, and not the individual, it is not possible to make comparisons between the sexes.

60. In the discussion that followed the presentations, the representative of Argentina said that in her country women made up a large share of those in ICT careers.

61. The sixth panel, entitled "Women in Science" was moderated by Wanda Vázquez Garced, Women's Advocate of Puerto Rico. The panellists were Gloria Bonder, Director of the Gender, Society and Policies Area of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) of Argentina; Carolina Cosse, President of the National Telecommunications Administration (ANTEL) of Uruguay; and Herminia Rodriguez Pacheco, Researcher at the Centre for Women's Studies of the Federation of Cuban Women.

62. The Director of the Gender, Society and Policies Area of FLACSO emphasized the need to highlight and recognize women's contribution in the history of science. On average, women were more likely to abandon their studies than men, especially to bring up their children, or else they settled into "velvet ghettos", defined as areas that were comfortable for women but that prevented them from progressing up the career ladder.

63. The President of ANTEL said that her institution was making efforts to connect all households in urban centres with more than 3,500 inhabitants with optical fibre by 2015. It was therefore essential to develop innovative uses for the bandwidth and integrate women into that initiative.

64. The Researcher at the Centre for Women's Studies of the Federation of Cuban Women said that several years ago women had realized that equal rights were not enough and the women's movement had begun to campaign for equal opportunities and possibilities. At the present moment, efforts were focused on equal outcomes, that is, real equality. She highlighted that women accounted for 53% of people working in the field of science and technology in Cuba and 49% of researchers.

65. The participants stressed the need to improve women's access to careers in science and technology and, in particular, to encourage them to remain in those roles.

66. The seventh panel, entitled "Women in business", was moderated by Markelda Montenegro de Herrera, Director of the National Women's Institute of Panama. The panellists were Karla Blanco, Director of Corporate Affairs of Intel for Central America and the Caribbean and gender initiatives coordinator for Latin America; Ylva Johansson, Member of the Parliament of Sweden; Rosario Mamani Apaza, Fundación FAUTAPO, Plurinational State of Bolivia; and María Ángeles Sallé, Chair of Fundación Directa and Managing Partner of Enred Consultoría, Spain/Panama.

67. The Director of Corporate Affairs of Intel for Central America and the Caribbean said that the digital divide was a matter of great import to the countries and that they must invest in girls since good-quality education and access to technologies produced economically autonomous women.

68. The Member of the Parliament of Sweden emphasized that changes would not occur automatically, but required strategies on the part of governments and women's alliances. She stressed the importance of taking relevant policy decisions, achieving equal working conditions, sharing gender convictions and creating gender indicators to improve the situation of women.

69. The representative of Fundación FAUTAPO said that behind the figures were the dreams, lives and difficulties of women and she spoke about the productive enterprises of women in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The primary motivation of women with children was family subsistence, while women without children were motivated by contributing to household subsistence and their own autonomy. Microenterprises were crucial to family survival. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, nine out of ten women had reported being victims of violence, which had profound psychological effects. Lastly, she described the comprehensive intervention model promoted by Fundación FAUTAPO that was designed to strengthen women's enterprises.

70. The Chair of Fundación Directa said that informality was the predominant feature of most small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the region. These companies tended to be family affairs, with little access to finance, innovation and patents, and more than half of the companies in the region had no access to the Internet. SMEs were at the heart of employment in Latin America and the Caribbean and 45% of the actions undertaken in relation to these companies were related to training. Research should be carried out to find out the proportion of enterprises owned by women and whether they were family businesses. She made a call to redefine the categories of companies, use more hybrid approaches and strengthen entrepreneurship.

71. The Director of the National Women's Institute of Panama gave a brief summary of the presentations and highlighted the importance of empowering women in the region using information technologies and education and of supporting women's productive enterprises.

72. In the subsequent discussion the participants agreed on the importance of improving education, digital literacy and teacher training, which were key to training individuals. The representatives of Chile, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Suriname stressed that it was essential to take measures to reconcile work, personal and family life. The representatives of UN-Women, IFAD, ILO and UNDP commended the Government of the Dominican Republic and ECLAC on the organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting women.

73. The eighth panel, entitled "Access to digital assets, land and credit" was moderated by Marcela Huaita Alegre, Vice-Minister for Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations of Peru. The panellists were Raúl Katz, Adjunct Professor, Division of Finance and Economics of Columbia University, United States; Carmen Diana Deere, Professor of Food and Resource Economics and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, United States; Renata Leite, Coordinator General of Production Organization and Marketing Organization of the Department of Policies for Women of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Brazil; and Félix Vélez Fernández Varela, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico.

74. The Adjunct Professor of Columbia University said that the sociodemographic variables of the digital divide should be analysed as women in poverty were penalized particularly harshly. The evidence showed that households headed by women in the poorest segments faced greater difficulties accessing and harnessing the benefits of ICT deployment than those headed by men. Another important issue was the lack of suitable digital content in the region since only 27% of the most visited sites were local, and many of them were translations or adaptations of international sites. Also of concern was the proliferation of degrading images of women circulating on the Internet.

75. The Professor from the University of Florida presented the results of a comparative study on Ecuador, Ghana and India, which showed how the ownership and distribution of assets between men and women influenced bargaining power and was a key indicator on the road to gender equality.

76. The Coordinator General of Production Organization and Marketing Organization of the Department of Policies for Women of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Brazil said that the adoption of measures and the strengthening of women's, and especially rural women's, economic and political rights, had marked a significant milestone with the creation of the Secretariat on Policies for Women, which had ministry status. The Ministry of Agricultural Development was responsible for executing the land reform programme and supporting family farming. In that connection, a department on policy for rural women had been set up in 2003. From then on, a policy framework had been developed to facilitate women's access to land and their recognition as title-holders under the land reform. Their fundamental civil rights, including access to basic documentation, was also secured. The plots under the land reform were subject to compulsory joint titling for couples (married or in a stable relationship). If the couple separated while the titling process was under way, the land was granted to the woman. Such measures had increased the participation of women in the land reform from 24% in 2003 to 69% in 2012. Furthermore, as a result of the land reform, the share of women heads of households had risen from 13% in 2003 to 22% in 2012. Lastly, she suggested that in 2014, the international year of family farming, a major activity should be carried out to address the issue of rural women and their access to new technologies, credit and assets.

77. The Vice-President of the Board of Directors of INEGI of Mexico said that in his country the gender disparities in ICT access were not as marked as the differences in access to land and credit. However, some differences were observed in relation to specific uses such as online shopping, where the predominance of men was clear, reflecting intolerable gender asymmetries in the distribution of income and decision-making power.

78. In the final round of comments, the panellists emphasized the importance of implementing public policies in rural areas to benefit women and promote their participation in digital centres.

Round table on Beijing+20: outlook and challenges

79. The round table "Beijing+20: outlook and challenges" was moderated by Sonia Montaño, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC. The participants were: Eleonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil; Moni Pizani, Director of the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN-Women; Gisela Alonso, President of the Environment Agency of Cuba; Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of ECA; María Ángeles Durán, Research Professor at the Institute for Economics, Geography and Demography of the Centre for Human and Social Sciences, Spain; Diane Quarless, Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean; and Sergia Galván, Executive Director of Colectiva Mujer y Salud, Dominican Republic.

80. After welcoming the participants, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that, with a view to building the development agenda beyond 2015, the round table was an opportunity to share views with the specialists, leaders and delegations at the conference on the direction to be taken to achieve sustainable development.

81. The Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil stressed the need to combat violence against women and said that her country's former President Luiz Inácio Lula and the current President Dilma Rousseff had taken significant steps to do so. She referred to the Maria da Penha Law that had been introduced to combat violence. Although the steps taken to ensure a decent life for all women were still insufficient, essential progress had been made, even if it was not homogeneous. She highlighted the fundamental value of the Montevideo Consensus, which had been adopted in August 2013 during the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and which had incorporated a gender equality perspective.

82. The Director of the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN-Women stressed that the Beijing Platform for Action was the guide to follow to improve the situation of women in the region and, as its twentieth anniversary drew near, efforts should be redoubled to meet the commitments that had had not yet been achieved. She called for intensified action in pursuit of gender equality, strengthening knowledge and resources at all levels and in all institutions, and said that equality would lead to the greatest gains for the future of women. The United Nations Economic and Social Council had mandated the Commission on the Status of Women to review the progress and challenges associated with implementing the Platform for Action. A global and regional strategy would be launched at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2014, which would include a campaign with an event per month focusing on each of the areas of particular concern.

83. The President of the Environment Agency of Cuba mentioned the different bodies and agreements that had been established globally since 1945, such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, whose members had agreed to propose 12 targets to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The outcome of the discussions was that gender should not be the subject of a specific objective, but rather should be reflected across all of the objectives, and she also stressed that women should state explicitly the types of public policies that would match their needs in health, education, science and technology.

84. The Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development of ECA said that she would invite the participants to a conference on women in Africa to be held in 2014 to share experiences between the two regions. The theme of the conference was Beijing+20, but it would include a review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of Cairo. Africa had been the last continent to review that Programme of Action and had serious problems in terms of women's economic empowerment, lack of access to technology and markets, and racial problems. Member States had made a commitment to pursue policies and strategies to eradicate violence against women and improve their living conditions. They had also committed to promoting girls' education, even in conflict situations, and to adopting legislation prohibiting violence against women, such as female genital mutilation. However, despite the high level of female participation at the last conference, 16 of the 53 African States present had submitted reservations in relation to the review of the Beijing Platform for Action. In connection with sexual and reproductive rights, she noted that every time the agreements included the words "without distinction" or "all individuals", States parties had had reservations. Africa would fall short of achieving at least some of the Millennium Development Goals.

The continent was defining a common position for the development agenda beyond 2015, but she stressed that inequality in the region was often silenced. Lastly, she referred to the key issues that had been discussed for inclusion in the development agenda beyond 2015, including structural economic transformation, innovation, human development and financing, inclusive growth and gender equity.

85. The Research Professor from the Centre for Human and Social Sciences of Spain said that the Quito and Brasilia consensuses had focused on heterogeneity, inequality, development, economics, women and the future. She stressed, however, that words constructed realities and by referring to production as "the other economy in Latin America and the Caribbean" it meant accepting the definition of the economy as the market and that conception was erroneous. The most significant centres for the production of services in the region were households, and the workers were women who had no social protection and, what is more, they were classified as non-productive, when in fact they were highly productive. Calculations were currently being made to determine how much care was required by a child aged three to four years. Lastly, she asked how Latin America and the Caribbean would satisfy the tremendous need for energy for its production units.

86. The Chief of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean said that they were working on the gender perspective in the context of economic development agenda beyond 2015 in order to continue pursuing the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. She stressed the importance of putting people at the centre of development, regardless of geographical location, and of ensuring that vulnerable groups had social protection -a commitment that could not be achieved without the participation of women in the economy and politics. Governments must make such commitments a reality through strategies and policies. One of the challenges would be to fully incorporate a cross-cutting gender perspective in public policies. In order to achieve the goals and eliminate gender discrimination, governments must meet the targets on education and equal access to health, markets, social protection, credit and technology, and fulfil their human rights obligations. The intergenerational cycle of poverty was more marked among women than men and a high proportion of those working in the informal sector, which was still very large, were women. Women often lacked social protection and faced sexual and reproductive health problems. In the Caribbean subregion, no sex-disaggregated data were available in the fields of economics, politics or sexual and reproductive health, nor were there any figures on violence against women. The work carried out by women in the home was not counted in the statistics. She highlighted the problem of trafficking in women and children. ICTs were not being used as a tool for the development of women and the biggest challenge facing the machineries was to ensure a strong representation of women in politics. The first thing to do in the Caribbean was to develop the statistical capacity for the subregion to make those changes.

87. The Executive Director of Colectiva Mujer y Salud of the Dominican Republic said that progress was being made towards full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and that it was essential to move forward on the 12 action areas. She highlighted the achievements that had been made on the rights of women in each of those areas, in particular, with regard to the creation of machineries for the advancement of women, changes to the regulatory frameworks of almost all the countries, statistical measurement and public policy, and said that the profile of the situation of women had been raised. At the regional level, despite the major changes achieved as a result of the past five regional conferences on women in Latin America and the Caribbean and their consensuses, much remained to be done to achieve the expected outcomes because women in the region had achieved formal equality but not real equality. The evaluation process should include a discussion on all of the rights of all women and, to ensure accountability, the topics of discussion should cover women's citizenship, democracy, women's sexual rights and reproductive rights and economic autonomy.

88. In the subsequent discussion the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs, referring to the statements by the panellists, said that if anything distinguished the situation of women today compared with the past it was that the struggle for equality now took place in the political arena in a context of competing agendas and disputes over resources and rights. Discussions focused on how to combine respect for freedom with equality and human rights, that is, defining the scope for personal freedom in the field of equality. With reference to the achievements and challenges in relation to mainstreaming gender equality, she said that while progress was heterogeneous because of uneven development and the different rhythms of the region's countries, it was irreversible. Lastly, in the context of the region, the progress that the countries had made should be acknowledged and, as had been mentioned, the only weapon that women had were words.

89. The representatives of Canada, Spain and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the significance of the World Conference on Women and its Platform for Action. The representative of Canada also emphasized how important it was for men to join the cultural change.

90. In their closing comments, the panellists raised the importance of South-South cooperation, of establishing a dialogue between the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Conference and women's networks in the region, of making a call to action focused on women's economic empowerment and of continuing the statistical work on time use that had begun in the region. Lastly they emphasized the inclusion of satellite accounts of unpaid work in national accounts.

Consideration and adoption of agreements by the Conference (agenda item 5)

91. The Santo Domingo Consensus was presented for consideration by the plenary meeting and was adopted.

Closing session

92. At the closing meeting, statements were made by Sonia Montaño, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, and Alejandrina Germán, Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

93. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic, in particular the Ministry for Women's Affairs, for the efficient organization of the Conference and acknowledged the work of all the participants and of the Commission that went into the adoption of the Santo Domingo Consensus. She recalled the twin characteristics of the regional conferences, which had been highlighted at the opening session: continuity and innovation. Women's rights had been the main thread running through all of the conferences and, even though new actors had been brought to the negotiating table, much remained to be done.

94. The Minister for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic said that the Santo Domingo Consensus would mark a milestone in the democratization of ICT access and use by women and stressed that the agreements contained therein had to be converted into effective public policies in order to ensure the full participation of women on equal terms in the information and knowledge society. She expressed thanks for all the support received for the organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference and said that the Government of the Dominican Republic would approach the challenge of chairing the Presiding Officers with the firm conviction that in the next three years it could fly the flag of victory as all women gained ground in terms of empowerment.

95. At the end of the session, the representative of Uruguay officially conveyed his country's offer to host the thirteenth session of Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. That offer was welcomed by the delegations.

Adoption of the agreements of the Conference

96. The member States represented at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the Santo Domingo Consensus, the text of which is presented in annex 1 of this report.

Annex 1

SANTO DOMINGO CONSENSUS

The delegations of the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santo Domingo from 15 to 18 October 2013,

Reaffirming:

- 1. The commitments States have assumed under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, 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 Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000) and the protocols thereto, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- 2. The agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
- 3. The valuable contribution to policies and programmes made by the regional consensuses adopted at previous sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the continued relevance of the Brasilia Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010;
- 4. The commitments undertaken at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in April 2013 with the support of the second phase of the Alliance for the Information Society programme (@LIS2);
- 5. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, and the commitment to other instruments and resolutions on gender equality, empowerment and the advancement of women;

Considering:

6. The opportunity represented by the debate that is taking place in different forums, in particular on the new development agenda beyond 2015, the search for new forms and models of development, and the strengthening of democracy and increasing acceptance of equality as an imperative, which offers new opportunities for the application of gender policies;

- 7. That the digital economy, innovation projects and access to and use of information and communications technologies present an array of opportunities and challenges in connection with achieving women's economic, physical and political autonomy, which compel the use of these tools to drive the processes of building equality and prevent these technologies from opening a gap that deepens the inequalities in the information and knowledge society, especially for rural, indigenous, Afro-descendent, displaced and migrant women, young women, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS and women with disabilities;
- 8. That women's autonomy is essential to guaranteeing the exercise of their human rights in a context of full equality and, in particular, that control over their own bodies, comprehensive health and the right to live a life free from violence (physical autonomy), access to land and the ability to generate their own income and resources (economic autonomy) and full participation in decisions that affect their lives and their community (autonomy in decision-making) constitute three mutually supportive pillars that are fundamental to achieving greater gender equality and promoting women's access to information and communications technologies;
- 9. That the freedom, capacity and right to take informed decisions empower women to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and social spheres;
- 10. That a secular State and the implementation of participatory forms of government are guarantees for the effective exercise of human rights and the consolidation of democracy, transparency and governance;
- 11. The negative impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on access to new technologies by the countries targeted by such measures;
- 12. The impact of information and communications technologies on society and the economy;
- 13. 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 women's autonomy and limit their full development;
- 14. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Cancun Agreements adopted at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun, 2010);

Bearing in mind:

- 15. That every country has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained herein in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with internationally recognized universal human rights;
- 16. The imminent deadlines for implementing the main international agendas that have helped to further the advancement of women, such as the Millennium Development Goals, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

- 17. The need to assess the implementation status of these international agendas and the progress made towards achieving the goal of real and effective gender equality and women's autonomy in the region;
- 18. The need to include gender equality in the development agenda beyond 2015 and to define the outlook and priorities for the future, in relation to both a stand-alone goal on equality and the mainstreaming of gender across the entire set of goals to be adopted under the new sustainable development agenda with a view to ensuring a rights-based approach to development;
- 19. The centrality of gender equality in the development debate, which entails taking account of both productive and reproductive work and changing the division of labour, since inequities in the sphere of reproduction have created a disproportionate burden on women and structural gender inequalities that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, marginalization and inequality;
- 20. That the sustainable development agenda should incorporate and reaffirm the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, in general, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, in particular, as a fundamental part of that right, recognizing gender equality as a prerequisite for its fulfilment;
- 21. That gender equality must be the central thread running through all action taken by the State, given that it is a key factor in consolidating democracy and moving towards a more participatory and inclusive development model;
- 22. States' responsibility to focus efforts and make the investments needed to ensure that information and communications technologies are accessible and contribute to enhancing women's initiatives and their economic, political and physical empowerment, preventing the creation of new gaps owing to the living conditions or cultural diversity in the region;
- 23. That to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges offered by information and communications technologies for the advancement of women, it is necessary to overcome existing constraints and gender gaps in relation to education, health, the exercise of power, the economy and sociocultural spheres;
- 24. The need to facilitate access to information and communications technologies by women of all ages such that they can fully exercise their right to freedom of expression through networking, advocacy and exchange of information, educational activities and the specialized use of these technologies in economic activities;
- 25. That information and communications technologies have transformed information into one of the most valued and sought-after market resources;
- 26. That public policies must be adopted and implemented to tackle racism and ethnocentrism and their harmful consequences;
- 27. That rural women's access to land, natural resources and public resources in support of production —such as technical and technological assistance, education and credit— is still subject to various constraints;

- 28. The need to support the sustainability of women's and feminist organizations and movements, recognizing them as essential agents in transforming and mobilizing society and in informing, educating and communicating for social, economic, political and cultural change grounded in the democratic principles of autonomy, equality of rights and women's empowerment;
- 29. That the justice system is important for the promotion of human rights and recognizing that justice delayed is often justice denied;
- 30. That the adoption of a human-rights-based approach in policies and programmes calls for the detailed planning of specific actions that can bring about real changes in all stages of women's life cycle, particularly for young women, rural women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, displaced women, migrant women, other women who live in particularly vulnerable or marginalized circumstances and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, transvestite and intersex (LGBTTI) persons;

Agree to:

A. GENDER EQUALITY, EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

- 31. Adopt public policies aimed at resolving the problems that affect our peoples, in particular women, and use information and communications technologies as a means of implementing those policies;
- 32. Work together with all stakeholders to ensure that the information and knowledge society fosters the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes;
- 33. Design measures to build a new technological, scientific and digital culture for girls and women to bring them closer to and allow them to become familiar with new technologies and integrate them in their daily lives, and facilitate the strategic use of these technologies in their different spheres of development and participation, and encourage the implementation of national projects and programmes to promote and strengthen the pursuit of scientific and technological vocations by women;
- 34. Strengthen the mainstreaming of gender across all areas of public policy in connection with information and communications technologies, ensuring full access to these technologies and their use by women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on an equal and equitable basis for the social appropriation of knowledge, bearing in mind the associated regulations, costs and coverage issues and with respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;
- 35. Adopt public policies that include affirmative action to promote the lowering of barriers to access, a better grasp of the use of information and communications technologies and the

local-language adaptation of applications and content related to these technologies, and that foster the engagement of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in vocational training in the sciences, including mathematics, engineering, environmental technologies and information and communications technologies, and in all areas of scientific research and knowledge production;

- 36. Encourage the creation of networks for communication and exchange in all spheres of science, leveraging the experience gained by women in the region, as well as public policies that incentivize the use and promotion of appropriate technologies and related legislation, and open-source software as a means of achieving the democratization of knowledge, free access and autonomy;
- 37. Promote improvements in women's access to decent employment, redistributing care work between the State, market and society, and between men and women, facilitating training and the use of technology, self-employment and business creation in the science and technology sector, and increase the proportion of women in areas where they are underrepresented, for example, in academia and the fields of science and technology, including information and communications technologies;
- 38. Ensure that the education system, at all levels and with respect to all forms of teaching, provides timely information to women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on the benefits, applications and availability of vocational training opportunities in science and technology that could contribute to their personal, economic, social and political autonomy;
- 39. Promote, conduct and disseminate studies and research on women in science, including mathematics, technology and engineering, as well as science fairs and congresses, in order to showcase the skills, innovation and contributions of women, girls, adolescent girls and young women in these fields;
- 40. Ensure that businesswomen and female entrepreneurs, including rural, indigenous and Afrodescendent women, have access to marketing mechanisms and to credit for acquiring technological equipment and instruments that enable them to innovate and expand their business opportunities and their participation in development-oriented production processes and self-managed enterprises;
- 41. Promote gender equity and equality in strategic and high-level managerial and decisionmaking positions in firms and public and private institutions, including in the information and communications technologies sector;
- 42. Promote also knowledge and analysis of risks for women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities in relation to cybersafety, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, child pornography, cyberbullying and bullying by other technological means, and define related offences and appropriate sanctions, considering their impact on the human rights of these groups, and enact corresponding legislation;

- 43. Give impetus to policies that encourage the proactive participation of educators of children and adolescents, both in the home and at school, in ensuring the safe use of information and communications technologies;
- 44. Support the generation, creation and dissemination of content and knowledge defined, produced and developed by women;
- 45. Strengthen e-government policies from a gender perspective, including through the production and dissemination of sex-disaggregated information, administrative records and statistics on government and public service administration, to promote a culture of accountability using technology tools and contribute to strengthening mechanisms of citizen participation;
- 46. Advocate legislative and educational measures by the State and the private sector to eradicate and punish sexist, stereotypical, discriminatory and racist content in the media and in software and electronic games, promote the use of positive images, appreciating women's contributions to society, and encourage, also at the State level and in the private sector, egalitarian relations and responsibilities between women and men in the field of science and technology;
- 47. Advocate also legislative measures and policies, by the State and the private sector, to guarantee adequate conditions of work and health and to protect women against exploitation in these areas and especially in telemarketing and informal jobs;
- 48. Adopt policy measures to control highly toxic electronic waste which causes serious health problems and risk of death and illness with an impact on women and children from poor families and environmental damage;
- 49. Take measures to ensure personal data confidentiality and protection at all stages of data collection and processing, and to avoid espionage;
- 50. Seek ways to bring sciences and the new technologies closer to the specific situations of women, appreciating the dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty in areas with the worst social exclusion, promote development and democratize education;
- 51. Eliminate sexism and gender stereotypes in education systems, books and teaching materials, and eradicate biases in teachers' perception of boys' and girls' performance in sciences, including mathematics and technology, broadening the training of educators for equality and promoting teaching practices free from prejudices and stereotypes;
- 52. Reaffirm and develop policies and plans of action to realize the commitments and targets of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), strengthening the working group on gender with the active participation of women's organizations;

B. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

- 53. Urge States to accede to and ratify the International Labour Organization conventions relating to gender equality, such as those on decent work for female and male domestic workers;
- 54. Recognize the value of unpaid domestic work and adopt the necessary measures, including legislative measures, and public policies that recognize the social and economic value of domestic work;
- 55. Define and establish instruments for the periodic measurement of the unpaid work done by women and ensure that public budgets allocate the funds required by the machineries responsible for compiling and systematizing the information for conducting national time-use surveys in order to facilitate the design of appropriate and fair public policies;
- 56. Urge States to establish satellite accounts for unpaid domestic work in the countries of the region;
- 57. Recognize care as a right and, therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by men and women of all sectors of society, and by families, private companies and the State, and adopt measures, policies and programmes on care and on promoting the joint responsibility of women and men in family, working and social life in order to free up women's time so that they can engage in employment, studies and politics and enjoy their autonomy to the full;
- 58. Achieve the consolidation of public protection and social security systems with universal, comprehensive and efficient access and coverage by means of solidary, standard, participatory financing, based on the principle of solidarity and linked to a broad spectrum of public policies that guarantee well-being, quality of life and a decent retirement and enhance the full exercise of citizenship by women, including those who have devoted their lives to productive as well as reproductive work, both paid and unpaid, female domestic workers, rural women, female informal and contract workers and, above all, women directly or indirectly affected by illness, disability, unemployment, underemployment or widowhood at any stage in their life cycle;
- 59. Draft and promote legislative initiatives for reinforcing the empowerment of women in terms of their right to ownership of land and other natural resources, as well as their participation on an equal basis in managing these resources with respect to decision-making, access to and control of capital, access to good-quality services and producer goods, technology, markets and market information, inheritance and capital assets;
- 60. Prioritize and intensify initiatives aimed at women's economic empowerment at the community level through means such as business education and business incubators to improve their situation and thus reduce their vulnerability to violence;
- 61. Prioritize also the design and implementation of public policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty among women, on the basis of sustainable development, economic growth, technical and financial support for productive activities launched by women living in poverty, training and skills-building for employment, access to decent work and optimum use of information and communications technologies, from the perspective of equality;

- 62. Develop and implement active labour-market and productive employment policies to ensure decent work for all women, combating the precarious and informal conditions that affect mainly the female workforce and guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value, an egalitarian participation rate, appointment without discrimination to positions of power and decision-making and the elimination of occupational segregation, with particular attention to rural women, Afro-descendent women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and young women;
- 63. Promote and enforce legislation on equality in employment to eliminate discrimination relating to gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation and other types of discrimination in access to and security in the labour market, establishing mechanisms for filing complaints to bodies clearly identified and mandated for that purpose and determining sanctions for bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in the workplace;
- 64. Take measures to formalize employment, ensuring social protection and health, as well as to boost the economic and financial autonomy of women through access to working capital, including credit facilities, as well as technical advice and state-of-the-art technology, and foster entrepreneurship, cooperative movements and other forms of partnership, including self-managed enterprises;
- 65. Adopt measures to ensure that gender equity and equality criteria are applied in relation to the implementation of fiscal policies and that affirmative action is taken to prevent fiscal reforms from exacerbating poverty levels among women;
- 66. Implement measures, including legislative measures, to ensure access by women on an equal basis to formal financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and transfers, without any type of barrier based on discrimination;
- 67. Acknowledge the increase in women's participation in teleworking, promote the establishment of specific public policies on teleworking in accordance with the conventions and other provisions of the International Labour Organization, and prevent conditions in the sector from becoming more precarious;
- 68. Urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Division for Gender Affairs, to carry forward action to promote production development and women's economic autonomy by raising the profile of women engaged in production activities and designing and implementing an integrated, inter-agency and intersectoral approach for the support of women entrepreneurs, women producers and businesswomen within value chains;

C. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

69. Promote, protect and guarantee the complete fulfilment of the sexual rights and reproductive rights of women of all population groups throughout the life cycle by implementing laws, policies, rules, regulations and programmes incorporated into national and subnational budgets, insofar as physical autonomy is a fundamental dimension of women's empowerment and their participation in the information and knowledge society on an equal basis;

- 70. Ensure, within the framework of strengthened health systems —endowed with budgetary, monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms— universal access to expanded sexual health and reproductive health services of better quality and wider coverage, which must include information and timely, specific and comprehensive education and the provision of free contraceptives, and must be integrated into health-care services and geared particularly to women in the poorest sectors and subject to the worst forms of social exclusion and young persons and adolescents of both sexes;
- 71. Coordinate action with the private sector, civil society and other types of social organization, from a gender perspective and with due regard for the life cycle and cultural relevance, to improve access to information and education and, through greater participation of individuals and the community, increase the efficacy of sexual health and reproductive health services;
- 72. Ensure that the financial resources for HIV/AIDS prevention are allocated to specific measures grounded in scientific evidence that reflects the particular characteristics of the epidemic in each country, with special attention to geographical location, social networks and populations that are vulnerable to HIV infection, with a view to ensuring that those resources are employed as effectively as possible;
- 73. Ensure comprehensive care for persons affected by HIV/AIDS, in particular women, girls, adolescents, young persons, orphans and vulnerable children, migrants and people in humanitarian emergencies, detained women, indigenous populations, Afro-descendants and women with disabilities, as appropriate in the local context;
- 74. Implement gender-sensitive measures to guarantee access to good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, during and after disasters and in cases of emergency and for displaced persons and refugees in order to prevent mortality and morbidity, particularly among women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in these circumstances;
- 75. Strengthen statistical information systems in relation to the age range for determining pregnancy rates among girls and adolescent girls and include analysis of the associated factors in order to demonstrate their impact and implement measures and public policies to reduce the incidence of pregnancy in these age groups in the region;
- 76. Take measures to ensure that health policies encompass information and communications technologies, in order to achieve greater efficiency and quality in health services, knowledge management (including research), follow-up of medical history, referrals and counter-referrals and related information, guaranteeing confidentiality of all data;
- 77. Implement comprehensive, good-quality and timely sexual and reproductive health programmes and policies for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly, sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human-rights-based, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, such that they can exercise, in safe conditions, the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation;

- 78. Ensure, in cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized in national legislation, the existence of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies;
- 79. Ensure also effective implementation and institutionalization of comprehensive education on sexuality in education systems, as a means of preventing adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality, and to prevent unwanted pregnancies in general and guarantee women and adolescent girls the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights such that they can take free, informed and responsible decisions in relation to their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation, including the right to motherhood of women with HIV/AIDS;

D. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- 80. Enforce national and local policies and adopt preventive, punitive, protection and care measures to eliminate all forms of violence and stigma against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies with an intercultural approach in order to achieve greater inclusion and equality for all women;
- 81. Enforce also national laws and policies to combat violence against women and girls in the media and in the use of information and communications technologies, considering the nature of these spheres and the risks they involve, and the greater vulnerability of women in all their diversity;
- 82. Ensure that women are not subject to violence during the provision of health services, in particular the type of violence inflicted during childbirth known as obstetric violence;
- 83. Create coordination forums to further the joint commitment of public and private institutions involved along the critical path towards preventing, addressing and punishing all forms of violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women and older women;
- 84. Adopt new strategies that guarantee effective institutional responses to bring about rapid and significant changes in the structural factors that influence violence against women and the sociocultural and symbolic norms that perpetuate it, strengthening mechanisms for prevention, prosecution, punishment and redress, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies in the protection measures afforded by the competent judicial authorities;
- 85. Support the development and use of information and communications technologies and social networks as resources for the empowerment of women and girls, including access to information on the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls;
- 86. Develop mechanisms, including legislation, and sanctions to combat the use of information and communications technologies and social networks to perpetrate violent acts against women and girls, in particular the criminal misuse of such technologies for sexual

harassment, sexual exploitation, child pornography and trafficking in women and girls, and new forms of violence, such as cyberbullying and intimidation and privacy violations that compromise the safety of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;

- 87. Guarantee effective access to justice and free, good-quality legal aid for women who are subjected to violence, and provide training and public awareness sessions on gender issues to those authorized to dispense justice, as well as the police and other security bodies;
- 88. Promote the reform of legal systems and the amendment of laws which cause exclusion and harm, and ensure the removal of all systemic barriers to the effective delivery of justice;
- 89. Ensure that public security policies include specific measures to prevent, investigate, punish, penalize and eradicate femicide/feminicide and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls young women and older women, with the goal of securing them a life free from violence, and promote the adoption of regional protocols and the removal of legal obstacles to justice and redress;
- 90. Adopt the necessary measures, including legislation, to prevent, punish and eradicate all forms of trafficking and human smuggling in women, adolescent girls, young women and children, for sexual or labour exploitation or any other purpose, stepping up efforts in education, training and public awareness-raising in order to discourage the demand that fosters exploitation, offering adequate protection and care for the identified victims of trafficking, including shelter, rehabilitation and social integration services, witness protection, vocational training, legal aid, confidential medical care and repatriation or assistance with the regularization of migratory status, with the informed consent of the victim, regardless of their participation in court proceedings;
- 91. Promote respect for the comprehensive human rights of migrant women, regardless of their migratory status, and establish cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit and destination in order to respond to the challenges posed by undocumented migration in the region, including access to justice, and to provide measures that guarantee migrant women's access to identity and citizenship documents in order to improve their labour situation and facilitate their social inclusion, in both the country of origin and the country of destination;
- 92. Integrate a focus on gender-based violence into all programmes and services relating to sexual health and reproductive health, maternal and child health, family planning and services related to women living with HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases, in order to expand the coverage of support services in institutions and enterprises, and to guarantee the right to work and to a decent life as part of a coordinated, multisectoral response;
- 93. Define and develop public policies to combat discrimination and foster affirmative action on the basis of an intersectional approach that includes tackling sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia and lesbophobia;

- 94. Advocate the creation of integrated national and regional statistical systems on violence against women, including cybercrime, so that data on this scourge can be collected, compiled and analysed, with particular emphasis on thorough, complete and timely administrative records, with a view to designing and strengthening public policies and programmes to prevent, address and punish gender-based violence;
- 95. Guarantee that all victims and survivors of violence against women (including the victims' children and dependants, if any) have immediate access to comprehensive care services, psychosocial and mental health support, treatment of injuries, shelter, and care following instances of rape or sexual assault, and access to emergency contraception, prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion services in cases of rape;
- 96. Design a model for an emergency network, based on interactions from the local level, in order to protect human life, infrastructure and the operations of security and relief services and networks, so as to contribute to the prevention of violence, the safe care and recovery of female survivors of assault, and responses to emergencies and natural or anthropogenic disasters;
- 97. Define policies to tackle gender vulnerability factors in addressing the risks inherent to natural and anthropogenic disasters and emergencies, and design gender-sensitive prevention and response strategies to ensure the protection of women and girls;
- 98. Elicit a commitment, through the creation of strategic networks, from the media and media professionals' associations, to project a positive image of women, banishing the stereotypes and the violent content that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;
- 99. Consolidate a proposal to eliminate structural sexist discrimination in the rural environment, ensuring economic, political and social equality between men and women, and take immediate action to fulfil the right of rural women to live a life free from violence and racism;
- 100. Eradicate gender violence, considering the need for an integrated approach on several fronts, ranging from education to the transformation of cultural patterns and the strengthening of women's movements, with a view to consolidating the foundations for increasing rural women's bargaining capacity in power relations;

E. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN FOR POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DECISION-MAKING

- 101. Ensure that women have equal access to decision-making positions in all branches of government and in local governments, through legislative and electoral initiatives and measures that guarantee parity of representation in all political spheres and a commitment to strategic agendas to achieve parity in political participation and gender parity as a State policy;
- 102. Strengthen women's participation on an equal footing to men, adopting and applying laws that guarantee parity in decision-making forums, promoting affirmative action to include women in political parties and other democratic institutions, in the public and the private spheres, and setting up mechanisms to punish non-compliance with such laws;

- 103. Recognize and support machineries for the participation and organization of the feminist and women's movements;
- 104. Strengthen electoral observation and monitoring mechanisms with a gender perspective as instruments that ensure respect for women's rights to political representation;
- 105. Enact and implement legislation to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative violence against or harassment of women who reach decision-making positions of all levels, via electoral means or by appointment;
- 106. Use specific economic and technical measures to strengthen regional gender machineries for political training and education in support of women's leadership, and promote the participation of the region's women in such mechanisms, especially young, rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, and LGBTTI persons;
- 107. Encourage the media to commit to the objectives of equality and parity between men and women, through agreements to carry out media actions linked to equality and women's rights in all spheres, including gender parity in participation in political processes and in running for office, and which cover the various forms of women's political participation and the issues that affect them;
- 108. Promote, motivate and arrange arenas for debate, forums, workshops and campaigns in the media in favour of women's human rights in a culture of peace, avoiding the perpetuation of stereotypes that are detrimental to women's dignity;
- 109. Design and promote research on the gender perspective in the mass media;

F. GENDER EQUALITY AND MECHANISMS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- 110. Harmonize national regulatory frameworks, in accordance with international agreements on gender and women's human rights, with a view to enacting legislation aimed at achieving equality and to repealing discriminatory laws that stand in the way of the full exercise of women's rights;
- 111. Strengthen institutions advocating public policies on gender equality, such as gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment, by means of legislation and guaranteed, non-transferrable and irreducible budgets and by setting up decision-making bodies at the highest level, and build up their capacity to provide policy guidance on gender equality and women's empowerment by endowing them with the necessary human and financial resources for a cross-cutting impact on public policies and the structure of the State with a view to devising and implementing de jure and de facto strategies for promoting women's autonomy and gender equality;
- 112. Ensure gender mainstreaming and a focus on rights in all plans, programmes, projects and public policies, as well as the necessary coordination between State powers and social stakeholders to achieve gender equality, thus enshrining this concept as a pillar of sustainable development;

- 113. Adopt budgets with gender as a cross-cutting factor in the allocation of public funds and ensure that sufficient, protected funding is provided in all policy areas to fulfil all the commitments made by States to achieve the goals of equality and social and economic justice for women;
- 114. Strengthen, by means of training, exchanges of experiences and awareness-raising, regional and national instruments to monitor women's empowerment, particularly gender observatories, ensuring that the information and data supplied are compiled using a common methodology for the purposes of comparison and analysis of the different variables at the regional level, thus ensuring that the results obtained serve as basic input material for public policies on equality in the region;
- 115. Advocate an evaluation of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women using objective, effective tools and indicators which can ascertain the effect of the measures adopted and the actions carried out on the lives of women in the region;
- 116. Promote gender parity in regional integration mechanisms and in regional and national parliaments, and ensure the mainstreaming of equality as a cross-cutting consideration in regional policies and programmes;
- 117. Strengthen the effective implementation of systems for the production of statistical information for designing policies with a gender focus, affording particular attention to methods for collecting, classifying and processing sex-disaggregated national and regional data, including gender indicators in all areas, on the basis of a common methodology implemented by all the countries of the region, with a view to promoting women's empowerment and decision-making;
- 118. Promote the establishment, at the municipal and local level, of entities such as gender affairs bureaux or offices for the advancement of women, endowing them with sufficient human and financial resources and the specialist expertise to empower women, provide comprehensive care and prevent violence at the local level;
- 119. Strengthen regional gender machineries for women's empowerment with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming of gender equality and equity in the development agendas advocated as part of the processes of integration in the region;
- 120. Study the possibility of establishing a regional fund for gender equality and intercultural dialogue, funded by contributions from different types of donors, encouraging public-private partnerships;

G. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

121. Urge developed countries to fulfil their commitments on official development assistance, especially with the aim of moving forward on equality and gender equity in the region and on access to and use of information and communications technologies, respecting the self-determination of countries, and encourage those developing countries that are in a position to do so to support other countries in the region through South-South and triangular cooperation, tapping the integration processes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean;

- 122. Strengthen gender mainstreaming in the processes of integration aimed at socioeconomic development under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those in which major efforts are being made to include actions to promote gender equality, with the engagement of the feminist and women's movements;
- 123. Intensify exchanges and technical, scientific and financial cooperation, including South-South cooperation, between countries of the region on gender equality matters, particularly in relation to best practices, with emphasis on those digital agendas and national strategies for information and communications technologies that originate in civil society organizations, are in keeping with the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and apply a transformative and innovative approach in pursuit of equality;
- 124. Support the inclusion of the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda;
- 125. Urge national gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment to participate in the next ministerial conference on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 126. Promote the endorsement of the Santo Domingo Consensus in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and its reflection in the follow-up processes associated with the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the preparation of the development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development objectives, in the World Summit on the Information Society and in the outcomes of major summits and conferences in general;
- 127. Urge the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in fulfilment of its mandate, to encourage cooperation agencies to prioritize national agendas in their cooperation efforts, taking an integrative approach and creating the necessary interagency coordination and strengthening national and regional machineries for the advancement of women;
- 128. Recognize the work carried out by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for its contribution to training and capacity-building, to the exchange and dissemination of information and experiences and to drawing attention to the status of women in the region, and support that work and reinforce it with concrete measures, particularly with sex-disaggregated economic indicators for evaluating women's progress in the economy;
- 129. Recognize the contribution of the women's and feminist movements in the region to deepening democracy, building gender equality, developing an institutional structure and formulating and implementing public policies for equality;
- 130. Thank the United Nations, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for the support shown to the delegations participating in the present meeting;

- 131. Thank also the Government, especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the people of the Dominican Republic for their generous hospitality and efficient organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- 132. Welcome the offer of the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to host the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in 2016.
Annex 2

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF COSTA RICA



ECRCL 136-13

La Embajada de Costa Rica saluda muy atentamente a la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), y tiene el honor de informar que el Gobierno de Costa Rica realiza la siguiente reserva, la cual solicita sea incluida en el correspondiente informe, en relación con el Consenso de Santo Domingo, adoptado en la XII Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, del 14 al 18 de octubre del año en curso:

"Costa Rica, apoya el Consenso de Santo Domingo, acorde a nuestra política de igualdad y equidad de género y a los esfuerzos país en pro de la igualdad y derechos humanos de las mujeres. No obstante mantiene reserva en el párrafo 95, específicamente en lo referente al aborto en casos de violación y anticoncepción de emergencia, por cuanto la legislación nacional no lo contempla."

La Embajada de Costa Rica aprovecha la ocasión para reiterar a la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, las seguridades de su más alta y distinguida consideración.



Santiago, 04 de noviembre de 2013

A la Honorable Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe <u>Ciudad</u>

TRANSLATION BY THE SECRETARIAT OF NOTE VERBALE FROM THE EMBASSY OF COSTA RICA

Embassy of Costa Rica in Chile

ECRCL136-13

The Embassy of Costa Rica presents its compliments to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and has the honour to inform the Commission that the Government of Costa Rica is submitting the following reservation, which it requests to have included in the relevant report, with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 14 to 18 October 2013:

"Costa Rica supports the Santo Domingo Consensus in accordance with our policy of gender equality and equity and the country's efforts to foster equality and women's human rights. However, it maintains a reservation with respect to paragraph 95,* specifically with reference to abortion following instances of rape and emergency contraception as these are not permitted under national legislation."

The Embassy of Costa Rica takes this opportunity to convey to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Santiago, 4 November 2013

* Translator's note: This corresponds to paragraph 65 in the final edited version of the Consensus.

Annex 3

EXPLANATION OF POSITION OF GUATEMALA

RESERVAS HECHAS POR LA DELEGACION DE GUATEMALA ANTE EL CONSENSO DE SANTO DOMINGO

La representación de Guatemala presenta la siguiente declaración escrita:

Con el objeto de que se incorpore al informe final de la XII Reunión Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe,(Consenso de Santo Domingo), mi delegación desea manifestar que, por razones de interés para nuestro país, Guatemala presenta la siguiente declaración de reservas:

- a) Que Guatemala tiene el derecho soberano de aplicar las recomendaciones contenidas en el Acuerdo emanado durante la XII Reunión Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y El Caribe, (Consenso de Santo Domingo), celebrada en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana del 15 al 18 de octubre del año 2013, de conformidad con lo estipulado en nuestra Constitución Política y leyes nacionales, por lo que ninguna de las disposiciones y recomendaciones de esta Reunión puede o debe interpretarse de forma que contradiga dichos instrumentos legales. Asimismo, la aplicación de dichas recomendaciones se adoptara y lo hará de acuerdo con las prioridades de desarrollo de nuestro país y respetando plenamente los diversos valores éticos y culturales, así como la convicción filosófica de nuestro pueblo multiétnico, multilingüe y pluricultural y de forma compatible con los derechos humanos universalmente reconocidos;
- b) Que Guatemala, presenta sus reservas, especialmente en relación a los temas, términos, condiciones y disposiciones contenidas en el presente acuerdo, referentes a:
 - El Aborto, toda vez que la Constitución política manifiesta en el Capítulo I, artículo 3 que: "El Estado garantiza y protege la vida humana desde su concepción", razón por la cual en el Código Penal sanciona a quienes lo causen.
 - Personas lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transexuales, trasgéneros, travestis e intersexuales e intersexuales (LGBTTI)ya que el Articulo 4, de la Constitución Política indica que:

"en Guatemala todos los seres humanos son libres en dignidad y derechos. El hombre y la mujer cualquiera que sea su estado civil tienen iguales oportunidades y responsabilidades".

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, 18 de octubre de 2013

TRANSLATION BY THE SECRETARIAT OF NOTE FROM THE DELEGATION OF GUATEMALA

Reservations presented by the delegation of Guatemala with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus

The representative of Guatemala submits the following written statement:

My delegation wishes to state that, for reasons of national interest, Guatemala is submitting the following declaration of reservation with respect to the Santo Domingo Consensus for inclusion in the final report on the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- (a) Guatemala has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained in the agreement (Santo Domingo Consensus) adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 15 to 18 October 2013, subject to its Constitution and national legislation, therefore none of the provisions or recommendations of the meeting can or should be interpreted in such a way as to contravene those legal instruments. The recommendations shall be adopted or applied in accordance with the development priorities of our country and with full respect for its diverse ethical and cultural values, as well as the philosophical convictions of our multi-ethnic, multilingual and pluricultural people and in a manner consistent with universally recognized human rights;
- (b) Guatemala submits its reservations in particular with respect to the issues, terms, conditions and provisions contained in the agreement in relation to:
 - Abortion: chapter I, article 3, of the Constitution states that "the State guarantees and protects human life from the moment of conception", and as such the Criminal Code sanctions those who cause abortion;
 - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, transvestite and intersex (LGBTTI) persons: article 4 of the Constitution states that "in Guatemala all human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights. Men and women, irrespective of their marital status, possess equal opportunities and responsibilities."

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 18 October 2013.

Annex 4

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Estados miembros de la Comisión States members of the Commission

ALEMANIA/GERMANY

Representante/Representative:

- Anja Kersten, Agregada de Economía y Cooperación, Embajada de Alemania en la República Dominicana, email: wi-10@santo.diplo.de

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

- Alverna Innis, Programme Officer, Minister of Education, Gender, Sports and Youth Affairs, email: alvernai@hotmail.com

ARGENTINA

Representante/Representative:

- María Julia Rodríguez, Directora de la Mujer, Dirección de la Mujer, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: mjr@mrecic.gov.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Eleonora Baringoltz, Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología, email: ebaringoltz8@gmail.com
- Cristina Antúnez, Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social
- Marcela Bordenave, Directora, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, email: marceborde@hotmail.com
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- María del Pilar Doti, Presidenta, Comisión Provincial Multisectorial de la Mujer, Cámara de Diputados, Provincia del Chaco
- Zunilda Valenziano, Consejo Directivo Nacional, Unión del Personal Civil de la Nación (UCPN)
- Gladys María Blas, Sindicato de Comercio
- María Inés Costilla, Comisión de Equidad y Género, Consejo Consultivo de la Sociedad Civil, Sindicato de Comercio, email: mariainescostilla@yahoo.com.ar
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- Patricia Pérez, Grupo Asesor de la Sociedad Civil, ONU-Mujeres, email: icwarg@hotmail.com
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- Tammy Alcántara, Instituto Dominicano de las Telecomunicaciones
- Susana Sierra, Instituto Nacional de Formación Técnico Profesional
- Mariel Matos Jiminián, Instituto Tecnológico de las Américas
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- Josefina Jiménez, Consejo Nacional de Drogas
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- Peter Dineiger, Cámara de Cuentas de la República Dominicana
- Ismael Contreras Cuellar, Cámara de Cuentas de la República Dominicana
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- Minou Tavárez, Cámara de Diputados
- Guadalupe Valdez, Cámara de Diputados
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- Severina Gil, Cámara de Diputados
- Altagracia Herrera de Brito, Cámara de Diputados
- Ysabel de la Cruz, Cámara de Diputados
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- María Fernández, Cámara de Diputados
- Ángela Pozo, Cámara de Diputados
- Amarilis Santana Cedano, Cámara del Senado
- Cristina Lizardo Amezquita, Cámara del Senado
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- Naivi Frías, Asociación de Periodistas con Perspectiva de Género
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- Baudouine Kamatari, Senior Gender Advisor, Chief Gender Unit, email: kamatari@un.org

D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas United Nations bodies

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

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E. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agicultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

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Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

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Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA)/International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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F. Invitados especiales Special guests

- Danilo Medina, Presidente de la República Dominicana
- Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, Vicepresidenta de la República Dominicana
- Cándida Montilla de Medina, Primera Dama de la República Dominicana

G. Organizaciones intergubernamentales Intergovernmental organizations

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank

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Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes rumbo a Cairo+20/Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Youth Towards Cairo+20

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Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir

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Articulación de Organización de Mujeres Negras (CRIOLA)

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Articulação de Mulheres Brasileiras/Articulación de Mujeres Brasileñas

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