

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

Virtual meeting, 26–27 January 2022

**DECLARATION ADOPTED BY MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF
THE NATIONAL MACHINERIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW66)**

WHOSE PRIORITY THEME IS

**“ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN
AND GIRLS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES”**

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

26–27 January 2022

We, the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean from 26–27 January 2022 at the regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14–25 March 2022,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols, the conventions of the International Labour Organization, especially No. 100, No. 156, No. 169, No. 189 and No. 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador, 1988), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth (2008), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement, 2021), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and guarantee all the human rights of women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by States in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) (2014), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the New Urban Agenda of the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011) and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016),

Reaffirming also the commitments assumed by States at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and its Agenda 21, particularly chapter 24, the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) and its gender action plans, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) and its Lima Work Programme on Gender and gender action plans, the Convention to Combat Desertification (1994) and its gender action plan, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (1992), the Millennium Declaration (2000), the Johannesburg Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (2014), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), particularly through Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and the Paris Agreement (2016),

Confirming the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean that make up the Regional Gender Agenda and are included in the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Latin American Economic and Social Development (1977), the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995–2001 (1994), the Santiago Consensus (1997), the Lima Consensus (2000), the Mexico City Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007), the Brasilia Consensus (2010), the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016), and the Santiago Commitment (2020),¹

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local and rural communities, migrants, adolescents and children, persons with disabilities and people in situations of vulnerability and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment and autonomy of women and intergenerational equity,

Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men in all their diversity can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional and intersectional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and indigenous peoples, persons who depend primarily on nature for their living, and people in vulnerable situations,

Recognizing that women and girls affected by the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters face particular barriers in gaining access to water and sanitation, health services, education and food security,

Recognizing also that Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, that it is affected by extreme hydrometeorological events and is highly sensitive to the effects of climate change owing to its geographic location and its socioeconomic, demographic and institutional conditions, and that it faces deep structural inequalities,

Recognizing further that, in the aftermath of disasters, accommodation in shelters can lead to situations of violence and abuse against women, adolescents and girls,

Considering that the crisis resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its multidimensional and interrelated impacts have exacerbated the challenges already faced by countries in the region, in particular indebted countries and those most vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change, and have a disproportionately high impact on women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, deepening the multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination and exclusion and the structural challenges of gender inequality,

Recognizing with concern the unprecedented crisis caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the uneven nature of the global response to the pandemic and the pandemic's multifaceted effects on all spheres of society, including the deepening of pre-existing inequalities, such as gender inequality, and resulting vulnerabilities, which may negatively impact the implementation of effective gender-responsive climate action,

¹ Brazil is not party to the Santiago Commitment.

Recognizing the contribution of rural, indigenous and campesino women and women who use coastal marine resources as guardians of biodiversity, albeit under conditions of significant fragility and exploitation and with less access to and control over land and production resources, and who shoulder the main responsibility for providing food for their families, collecting water and firewood, and tending vegetable plots and animals,

Considering that climate change actions, depending on how they are designed, can exacerbate gender inequalities or, on the contrary, help to overcome them, and in view of the urgency of accelerating the pace towards gender equality and guaranteeing the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in their diversity, we agree to:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to take all necessary measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and international commitments with respect to gender equality, women's economic, physical and decision-making autonomy, and the full guarantee of their human rights, with an intersectional and intercultural approach, which will allow progress towards achieving sustainable development, and to take climate-related measures to reduce emissions and build climate resilience and improve disaster risk management and reduction;

2. *Reiterate* our commitment to advance recovery plans with affirmative actions that foster comprehensive care systems, decent work and the full and effective participation of women in strategic sectors of the economy for a transformative recovery with gender equality aimed at the sustainability of life and for the transition to a care society;

3. *Integrate* the gender perspective into national policies, initiatives and programmes on the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the differentiated risks for and effects on women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, especially those subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and build the resilience and adaptive capacities of women, adolescent girls and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and environmental pollution in cities and rural areas;

4. *Strengthen* coordination between national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on the environment, climate change, disaster risk management and reduction, planning, finance, economy, energy and human rights, among others, and between the levels and branches of the State in order to promote climate action respecting, fostering and considering the obligations relating to gender equality;

5. *Advance* in incorporating a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective into policies and programmes with funding for sustainable development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, in disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening the full and effective participation of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and organizations, and in incorporating the gender perspective in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction and in processes of technological change to achieve low-carbon production;

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

7. *Provide* national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change and disaster risk management and reduction, among others, with adequate human and financial resources to ensure that the gender perspective is incorporated into the

design, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies, programmes and projects, for climate change adaptation and mitigation, for disaster risk management and reduction, and for the promotion of the autonomy and full participation of women in all their diversity;

8. *Strengthen* the capacities of national machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change and disaster risk management and reduction, among others, to incorporate the gender perspective into the formulation, monitoring, implementation and review of national policies, plans, strategies and actions on climate change, including, where applicable, nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans that take into account targets and indicators to identify gender gaps that need to be closed, among others;

9. *Reaffirm* the commitment to promote comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective that foster co-responsibility between men and women and between the State, the market, families and the community, and that include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services to meet the different care needs of the population, as part of social protection systems and within the framework of climate change actions, specifically in the response to extreme weather events and disasters;

10. *Promote* a systemic change in the approach to migration from a gender and human rights perspective to highlight the contributions of women, adolescents and girls in the migration cycle and overcome the situations of vulnerability they face, and consider the adoption of cooperation agreements among countries of origin, transit, destination and return for women migrants, displaced women, and women refugees and asylum seekers, paying particular attention to displacement phenomena caused by climate change and disasters and the different forms of gender-based violence against women that occur as a result of these circumstances;

11. *Continue* working to strengthen environmental governance and the enforcement of environmental law in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, including but not limited to mechanisms for access to information, participation and environmental justice, and the development of environmental public policies;

12. *Promote* the effective protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources; adopt measures to integrate the gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent discrimination and violence against these defenders; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that human rights violations committed against them are investigated and guarantee their access to justice;

13. *Strengthen* the resilience of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity and promote their autonomy to respond to and recover from the impact of climate change, disasters and extreme weather events, through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance, the provision of infrastructure and essential services, promoting, among others, universal access to comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, as well as access to comprehensive services for the prevention of gender-based violence and care in such situations, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, housing, social protection and decent work for women;

14. *Foster* measures to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping and peacebuilding and recovery, as established in Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda, with particular attention to processes involving the environment, natural resources, climate change and disasters;

15. *Actively support* the participation of women's and feminist organizations and movements, including those of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women, in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on climate change mitigation and response and disaster risk management, and promote the protection of the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the indigenous and Afrodescendent women of Latin America and the Caribbean;

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

17. *Strengthen* the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and other variables that are relevant for intersectional gender analysis, to support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of economic, social, environmental, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management and reduction policies;

18. *Stress* that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic should be an occasion to enhance and support the sustainable development policies of Latin America and the Caribbean while strengthening democracy and fulfilling human rights, and recognize the importance of developing recovery plans that promote sustainable development with gender equality and drive transformative change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including through the empowerment, autonomy and full participation of all women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity;

19. *Promote* coordinated work among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean so that the commitments to women's human rights and autonomy and gender equality established in the Regional Gender Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean contribute to discussions in international decision-making spaces related to the environment, climate change, disaster risk management and reduction, and sustainable development;

20. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their contribution to this regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

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

22. *Congratulate* the Government of Chile, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and commend the Government of Argentina, in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women representing the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States (GRULAC), for their contributions in moderating the regional consultation prior to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held within the framework of the sixty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request them to convey this declaration, as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session.