



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP
LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN





The regional UN group for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean is composed of 18 United Nations entities. The group is part of the regional coordination mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Under the coordination of UN Women*, the group worked in a collaborative manner and with in-kind and financial contributions from the various members of the group, to produce this joint publication. All the agencies that contributed to this publication are listed at the end of the document.

This publication was presented in a side event in the ECLAC Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development on 27 April 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico.

Initial design of the publication: Isaí Rubén Balcázar Calderón, Mexico

Re-design of the publication: Phoenix Design Aid, Denmark.

*This publication was produced under the overall direction of Luiza Carvalho, Regional Director, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women, and the technical coordination of Elisabeth Diaz, Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women with the support of Miguel Trancozo, Communications and Advocacy, Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, UN Women.

Photo cover: UN Women



INDEX

5	INTRODUCTION
8	PEOPLE
20	PEACE
30	PROSPERITY
42	PLANET
54	PARTNERSHIP





In 2015, the international community adopted the Agenda 2030, the intergovernmental agreement of greatest comprehensiveness, breadth and complementarity to the Charter of Nations in 1945.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are an extraordinary achievement of governments around the world, to which civil society, the private sector, academia and many other stakeholders have made a decisive contribution.

The Agenda 2030 reaffirmed that gender equality is a condition sine qua non for sustainable development and, at the same time, an indispensable outcome of it.

The 17 SDGs and its 169 targets will complement what remained to be achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): realising the human rights of all, including the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This global commitment moves further the frontiers of social justice, inclusion and human rights. Over the next few years, until 2030, areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet grouped together in the so-called '5 P' will be mobilised, as central spheres that structure the Agenda 2030:

People: The international community has set out to eradicate hunger and poverty and to ensure that everyone achieves their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet: Member states are committed to protect the planet from degradation, to sustainably manage natural resources and to take urgent action on climate change, in order to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Prosperity: Governments expressed their determination to ensure that all human beings enjoy prosperous and full lives and that economic, social and technological development takes place in harmony with nature.

Peace: Peaceful, just and inclusive societies, free from violence, will be promoted. The Agenda 2030 recognises the determining relationship between peace and sustainable development.

Partnerships: For the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030, a Global Alliance for Sustainable Development is required, based on world solidarity, and focussed on the particular needs of the most vulnerable population and with the participation of all women, men, girls and boys.

The intense negotiation process that led to the adoption of Agenda 2030 was just the beginning. We now turn to the most critical stage: the implementation of these commitments. As a key part of this implementation, it is important to recognise that people are not experiencing the areas of action summarised in the '5 Ps' in the same way. That is why it is so important to incorporate a strong gender perspective, to look closely at gaps and discriminations and to promote the investments required to change this situation.

In the fora of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and other intergovernmental fora, member states have reiterated the commitment made in the Agenda 2030 to significantly increase investments to close gender gaps. They also agreed on the importance of strengthening support to the mechanisms for the advancement of women at all levels and of systematically including a gender perspective in all aspects of implementation. This includes defining gendersensitive macro-economic policies, overcoming structural barriers, access to decent work, generating gender statistics and disaggregated indicators, strengthening accountability and promoting women's leadership at all levels, among others. These global and regional fora outlined the strategy and roadmap for gendersensitive implementation of all the Sustainable Development Goals. These are historical steps towards a Planet 50:50 in 2030.

With the adoption of the Montevideo Strategy in October 2016, Latin America and the Caribbean took a step forward in guiding national efforts towards a gender-sensitive implementation of the Agenda 2030, identifying the region's structural bottlenecks and challenges that should be overcome to make a region with equality between men, women, boys and girls in the next 15 years.

Reaching a Planet 50-50 requires implementing the foundation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, which is 'to leave no one behind'. Women and girls should not be left behind in terms of opportunities for learning and skills acquisition, decent work, fair wages and decision-making at all levels of government. They should not be left behind in terms of legal rights and access to services and the protection against gender-based violence. In this sense, gender equality is not only covered by SDG 5, but is also integrated into the other SDGs. This integration echoes the growing body

of evidence that reflects how gender equality has multiplier effects and helps accelerate achievement of the other development goals. On the other hand, if gender inequalities and discrimination against women and girls are not addressed, they will hamper or, worse still, impede the achievement of the SDGs.

Given the cross-cutting approach of the Agenda 2030 and the commitment to promote gender equality throughout the United Nations system, the United Nations Development Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), through the United Nations Regional Interagency Gender Group (GIG) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), decided to produce the document 'Commitments and Roadmap towards a Planet 50-50 in 2030'. This publication reflects the integrated and multidisciplinary knowledge of the 18 UN entities that make up the GIG, under the coordination of UN Women. With this collective effort, the GIG confirms its interest in promoting the incorporation of gender equality into the work of each member agency and in presenting joint messages and experiences in the Regional and Global Fora on Sustainable Development.

By prioritising gender equality and the full exercise of the rights of women and girls, we will move towards more prosperous economies, toward more just and peaceful societies and towards a more sustainable planet, to support progress and achievements of the Agenda 2030.

Luiza Carvalho

Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)





Leaving no one behind - but who is furthest behind?

People are the central focus of the work of the United Nations member states as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which contains two fundamental principles of human rights: equality and non-discrimination¹. The new Sustainable Development Goals celebrate this spirit and these principles under the theme of 'leaving' no one behind'. This is only possible if the women, girls and adolescents who make up half of the world's population have the same opportunities and enjoy all civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights, as well as effective access to basic services such as education, including integral education on sexuality, employment and health, as well as nutritional foods and control over them, from production to consumption.

Girls and women are not a homogeneous group, and gender inequalities affect them differently depending on their age, ethnicity, education, income, disability, geographical location, migration status, situation of displacement, statelessness and other international protection requirements. For example, there are women who suffer from a combination of various forms of discrimination and violence. which make them more vulnerable and at a disadvantage for achieving their development. This widens gaps in inequality in the region and slows down achievement of the sustainable goals drawn up by the international community. Women, as right holders, must fully exercise their citizenship, ensuring their complete active participation in sustainable development. States must guarantee these rights by developing policies, programmes and affirmative actions that reduce these situations of inequality.

Who are the most excluded girls, adolescents and women? Who faces greater challenges to progress?²

1. Those who endure gender-based violence. If one takes into account the age and frequency of violence, girls and young women in Latin America and the Caribbean face a situation of particular concern. Four in every ten girls aged 15-19 years have experienced violence at the hands of their partners at some point; 1.1 million adolescent girls aged 15-19 years have experienced sexual violence or another forced sexual act. Most perpetrators are men from their own circle (fathers, brothers, uncles), which further complicates the interruption of the cycle of violence they live in. Of the 25 countries in the world with high rates of feminicide, 14 are in Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender discrimination and gender-based violence are also causes of migration, forced displacement and statelessness. The violence that these women suffer has direct repercussions on their health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. limiting their opportunities for employment or income and including those of their family, especially their daughters and sons. This pandemic jeopardises the success of any development goal in societies.

2. Those who marry or enter into unions at an early age.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, child marriage and early unions are a common practice, tolerated socially and legally, which often have negative consequences for the rest of the lives of women and girls due to the severity of their impacts. Twenty-three per cent of women aged 20-24 years marry or enter into a union before reaching 18 years. It is the only region in the world where the prevalence of child marriage has not fallen

in the past 30 years, with worrying data at a country level: Dominican Republic (37%), Brazil (36%), Mexico (23%), Nicaragua (41%), Honduras (34%), and Guatemala (30%).

The prevalence of child marriage in rural areas is almost double that of urban areas. Girls from poor families, those living in rural areas and indigenous girls are most affected, which contributes to the inter-generational reproduction of poverty. Evidence shows that child marriage and early unions increase the likelihood of sexual violence and early pregnancy.

3. Those who have no access to sexual and reproductive health and whose sexual and reproductive rights are violated. Only Uruguay and Cuba have achieved universal access to sexual and reproductive health in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cervical and breast cancer end the lives of many women in the region, especially those with less access to screening and treatment. The lack of integral education on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health services also increases the risk of HIV infections, especially among adolescents and young people, who continue to face legal and sociocultural barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services. Access to contraception is on the rise, but 56% of pregnancies are unplanned. And although maternal mortality has fallen sharply, 13 countries in the region still have rates that are higher than the regional average³; the situation is worse for indigenous women.

Furthermore, the region has the second highest rate of adolescent pregnancies in the world, after Africa, with 20% of live births to adolescent mothers, which is surprising in the context of a fall in overall fertility rates. The risk of death due to causes related to pregnancy or perinatal birth increases as the age of the mother decreases, and

pregnancy among girls aged under 15 years is on the rise in some countries, with a clear link in most cases to situations of sexual violence and child abuse. Moreover, pregnancies are three to five times more likely in adolescents from low-income families, those with little education, in rural areas or from indigenous populations.

4. Those who have limited access to education services, health and basic social infrastructure, such as drinking water, sanitation and electricity, but also nutritional food and care infrastructure.

Girls and adolescents living in rural areas and those from indigenous families or of African descent encounter more obstacles to education. Access to basic infrastructure is especially important in reducing the burden of domestic and care work, particularly among rural women who can gain time for productive, educational or leisure activities. The presence of quality care services is vital in reducing restrictions on women's time, as well as promoting the autonomy, rights and capabilities of those who need care and support in communities.

In summary, although all women can experience situations that harm their rights, evidence shows that there are vicious circles of inequality in the region; that there are girls, adolescents and women who are more excluded because they suffer double and triple discrimination and have serious difficulties in escaping poverty from a multidimensional perspective. Of these, this note would like to emphasise the following groups, who we would like to see prioritised in public policies:

 Girls and adolescents in the region, whose specific needs in terms of sexual and reproductive health, transition from school to the workplace, and participation in decision-making are usually not heard or taken into account, and who suffer constant violence in their immediate environment.

- Those who belong to indigenous communities or are of African descent, because, as stated above, they have fewer possibilities than other sections of the population in accessing basic social services such as education, health and social protection, earning a decent income, owning land or participating in politics, and who are aslo most affected by child marriage and adolescent pregnancy.
- Those who are obliged to migrate or forced into displacement inside or outside their countries of nationality or usual residence, requiring them to seek asylum or other forms of international protection, especially unaccompanied girls, who suffer from all types of violation of their rights in their countries of origin, transit or destination, particularly sexual violence. This displacement, along with the gender discrimination that continues to exist in nationality laws, leads to the statelessness of women and girls, thus restricting access to a range of services and rights.
- Those who live with some form of disability and face formal and informal barriers to any service, but also to participating as citizens.
- Those who live with HIV, whose specific needs are not taken into account, and who suffer from stigmatisation and discrimination at all levels of society.
- Those in situations of humanitarian crisis and natural disasters, in which gender inequalities are usually exacerbated, thus jeopardising the progress already made.

Strategies and good practices to promote social inclusion and not leaving behind the women and girls who face the greatest obstacles to their empowerment.

Closing these gaps in inequality requires the activation of at least six intersectoral strategies (in particular in the sectors of health, education, social services or social development, but also security and justice), that act jointly in the short-, medium- and long-term with a clear focus on rights, gender equality and intercultural relevance:

- 1. Establish and advance the implementation of adequate legal and political frameworks that guarantee gender equality, the elimination of gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive rights for the entire population, with no exceptions. This requires policies with financial and human resources, the clarification of institutional roles, the promotion of inter-institutional coordination and the assurance of constant monitoring of progress in implementation by both legislative powers and civil society. For example, eliminating barriers that restrict access to sexual and reproductive health services of adolescents and youth through legal reforms is essential, as is working to overcome sociocultural barriers that make the coherent implementation of these laws and policies difficult.
- 2. Develop integral and multisectoral policies and programmes with an ecological focus to reduce adolescent pregnancy, early unions and gender-based violence, and to prevent new HIV infections, which make it possible to work at an individual, family, community, institutional and regulatory level. This involves the development of initiatives to empower girls and protect their rights, to raise awareness of families and communities about chilren's rights, to generate community-based, gender-transformative strategies, and to

- develop capacities of institutions and service providers, inter alia.
- 3. Complete secondary education at the normative age: various evaluations show that staying at school until the end of secondary education is a determining factor in reducing adolescent pregnancies and early unions, and preventing violence. It therefore requires a coherent combination of policies and programmes in the fields of education and health, including:
 - a. Integral education on sexuality: aimed at developing life projects and skills and accompanying the person with knowledge appropriate for her age and psychoemotional maturity, as well as referring her to services, such as counselling, contraception and HIV prevention
 - **b.** Universal health coverage for adolescents, with friendly sexual and reproductive health services and free access to contraception.
 - c. Prevention of gender-based violence in schools and the development of egalitarian relationships, which promotes values of respect for diversity, the empowerment of girls and adolescents and the construction of positive male roles.
 - **d.** Inclusion and continuation of school for adolescent mothers to break cycles of pregnancy and exclusion.
 - **e.** Guaranteeing access to education for migrant, displaced and/or stateless girls and adolescents, regardless of their administrative regularity or irregularity.
- **4.** Universalise access to basic social services to end gaps in inequality. In addition to basic services such as drinking water, sanitation and electricity, the development of rural and

indigenous areas should be prioritised, with respect for cultural diversity. Investing in care systems will also help women enter the workforce in equal conditions and will enable low-income families to achieve progress.

- 5. Generate the information required to take adecuate decisions to reduce these gaps in inequality. This includes reforming the systems of production and access to official statistical information to generate data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, disability, migration status, etc.
- 6. Promote the development of citizen participation platforms, including volunteer infrastructure and networks, where the active presence and leadership of girls, adolescents and women is guaranteed, especially for the most excluded groups, for them to influence public policies and undertake processes of social monitoring and accountability.

Some examples of interagency initiatives that include these strategies are provided below:

 Inter-agency efforts to influence legislative and policy changes for the elimination of violence against women and girls: the UNITE campaign

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign to end violence against women is an important step forward in bringing the United Nations System together to eradicating violence against women and girls. The work of UNiTE in Latin America and the Caribbean is based on three main pillars to mobilise communities at all levels:

- 1. No more impunity
- 2. No more victims
- 3. It is everyone's responsibility

To end impunity, for example, UN Women and the OHCHR launched the Latin American

Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/ **feminicide)** in 2014. This Protocol provides practical tools to improve the abilities of legal actors in guaranteeing the rights of victims, survivors and of their families. The meeting of the Expert Group on Gender-Relating Killing of Women and Girls in Bangkok in November 2014 recommended that states consider the Model Protocol and study the possibility of creating similar instruments for other regions4. Regionally, on various occasions, the General Assembly of the Inter-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) called on the various public ministries in the region to continue promoting the use of the Model Protocol. Through their respective offices in the region, UN Women and the OHCHR have promoted the adaptation of the Protocol at the national level. Recently, the OHCHR has developed an online, self-paced training course of the Protocol, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its design and metholodological adaptation. It is foreseen that this online course will serve the various countries in the region. It is being implemented in Argentina in cooperation with the Specialised Fiscal Unit for Violence against Women (Unidad Fiscal Especializada de Violencia contra las Mujeres, UFEM) of the country's Ministry of Public Taxation.

More information:

http://lac.unwomen.org/es/digiteca/publicaciones/2014/10/modelo-de-protocolo; http://www.oacnudh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Modelo_de_Protocolo.pdf http://escuelapnud.org/iniciativas/ohchr/

In **Ecuador**, from 2011 to 2012, the United Nations Gender Group, together with the Gender Roundtable of the International Cooperation (Mesa de Género de la Cooperación Internacional), supported dialogues on themes related to violence against women and femicide, as part of the **approval process of the**

Integral Organic Penal Code in 2014. In Uruguay, the second National Plan to End **Gender-Based violence** was designed by the National Advisory Council against Domestic Violence (Consejo Nacional Consultivo de Lucha contra la Violencia Doméstica, CNCLVD) under the leadership of Uruguay Women's Institute (INMUJERES) and launched on November 25, 2015. Key contributions to this plan came from the project named 'Uruguay united to end violence against women, girls and adolescents' ('Uruguay unido para acabar con la violencia contra las mujeres, niñas y adolescentes') of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Five UN agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, IOM and UNESCO) took part in this project and after its completion, UN Women and PAHO supported the design of the National Plan.

Interagency efforts to end child marriage and early unions in LAC

The joint advocacy work of the United Nations to eliminate exceptions to the minimum age of marriage was conducted in several countries in the region, including Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Uruguay. The UN also facilitated knowledge sharing among countries who developed national legislation aligned with international standards, such as Ecuador, Panama and Mexico (first at the federal level). For example, in **Mexico**, 12 UN agencies launched a national campaign and a 'Call for Action' during the 16 days of activism in November 2015. The campaign succeeded in obtaining the political support of the President of the Republic, the senate, various national institutions such as the National Institute of Women (INMujeres) and various local governments. Since this campaign, the advocacy work of agencies has continued and up to March 2017, 22 of the 32 states of Mexico had approved legislative changes in line with the (federal) General Law increasing the age of marriage to 18 years, without exception. UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and the OHCHR sent amici curiae to the courts of various states where state legislation on marriage is still not aligned with the General Law.

Since 2015, the regional offices for Latin America and the Caribbean of UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO have led a joint initiative to eliminate child marriage as a factor in protecting women and girls and preventing violence against them. In addition to legislative changes, the UNDG LAC recognises that the elimination of child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean requires a much more integral and wider focus, as implemented in Guatemala. The Programme called Opening Opportunities (Programa Abriendo Oportunidades) launched by the Population Council in 2004 to increase networks of social support for Mayan girls and promote their development, with the support of various international organisations such as UNFPA, the IDB and Plan International, among other partners. The programme invests in girls aged 8-19 to help them navigate their adolescence. The programme involves community leaders, creates safe spaces for girls in their communities and trains girls in practical skills and leadership. The programme has been expanded to other rural and urban areas in Guatemala as well as to Belize and Mexico (Opening Futures - Abriendo Futuros). Its adaptation is also being considered in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua. The programme has touched the lives of thousands of girls and those of their families and has achieved some important changes. One hundred per cent of the girls who led the programme have completed sixth grade (compared with 82% nationally); 97% had no children during the programme (compared with an average of 78% of girls of their age nationally) and the same percentage remained single during the programme; 94% claimed greater autonomy and felt more comfortable expressing their opinions; 88% opened a bank account; 44% had obtained paid employment

at the end of the programme; 52% wanted to complete university; and 32% wanted to complete vocational training.

More information: http://www.unfpa.org/ news/protecting-rights-unleashing-potentialindigenous-girls-rural-guatemala

Interagency efforts to expand access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls

A PROMISE RENEWED FOR THE AMERICAS: is a movement that seeks to reduce the deep inequalities in reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health that still persist in Latin America and the Caribbean. This effort unites the global and regional work of various international organisations: PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the IDB and USAID, with the cooperation of other agencies such as UNFPA and UNAIDS. The aim is to provide evidence-based tools to accelerate the reduction of health inequalities within and between countries. It contributes to achieving SDG 3 on health and SDG 10 on reducing inequalities, and is aligned with the Every Woman, Every Child Global Strategy: Survive, Thrive and Transform.

More information: http://www.apromiserenewedamericas.org/

PLANEA: Andean Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancy (Plan Andino de Prevención del Embarazo Adolescente): This initiative began at the Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Andean Area (REMSAA) at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in March 2007, which issued REMSAA Resolution XXVIII/437 for implementation. Since then, UNFPA, with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in partnership with other UN agencies such as WHO and with partners such as the Judicial Investigation Department (Organismo de Investigación Judicial, OIJ) has worked to address this complex problem in the Andean

subregion (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) along with national governments and their strategic partners in the sub-region. The initiative has achieved important results in increasing awareness of the problem at all levels and in the formulation public policies, through intersectoral dialogues and the active participation of youth organisations. Building on the latest available scientific evidence, participating countries harmonised and systematised strategies under an intersectoral framework, with a human rights-based approach, and in accordance with the social, demographic, epidemiological, political and cultural contexts of each country. This initiative has helped to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health policies, programmes and regulations, based on the concept of reproductive and social rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people. All countries participating in the initiative have national health programmes for adolescents and young people, as well as friendly, high-quality health services for adolescents, with the provision of information and education services on prevention, an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, and actions specifically directed at preventing unplanned pregnancies and the care of adolescent mothers.

More information: http://www.planandino. org/portal/

Interagency efforts to expand access to other actions and services for women and girls

The Integrated National Care System in Uruguay (Sistema Nacional Integrado de **Cuidados**)

In 2010, the Government of Uruguay set up a working group to design the health system under the framework of the National Council on Social Policy (Consejo Nacional de Política Social). This group established conceptual directives and guiding principles for the system, as well as a work plan for dialogue with state actors and civil society. In 2011, a dialogue process was convened that brought together thousands of people and hundreds of organisations from all departments in the country to inform about and discuss the system, as a way to democratise, decentralise and legitimise the process. As a result of this, in September 2012, the government approved the proposal 'Toward an inclusive care model. Proposal to build a national care system' ('Hacia un modelo de cuidado solidaria. Propuesta de construir un sistema nacional de cuidados'). The Integrated National Care System aims to create a model of shared responsibility to redistribute care responsibilities between families, the state, communities and the market. It is especially focussed on changing the distribution between men and women in care work (in other words, the unequal gender division of the work), and involves the active participation of caretakers and civil society. Various UN agencies, including UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, as well as ECLAC, supported this process.

More information: www.sistemadecuidados. gub.uy

http://lac.unwomen.org/es/noticias-y-eventos/articulos/2017/02/feature-uruguay-care-law

- 1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Art. 1: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights....' and Art. 2: 'Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.'
- 2 The data used are from studies by various United Nations agencies: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, PAHO/ HWO and UN Women.
- 3 Thirteen countries (Bahamas, Bolivia, Dominican

- Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname and Venezuela) have a maternal mortality rate that is above the regional average between 89 and 359 for every 100,000 live births (WHO, 2015).
- 4 See document UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2, page 17, para. 48 g.
- 5 Good practices report for 2015, p.28, available at http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/scripts/doc. php?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10261.





Who are the most disadvantaged girls, adolescents and women?

People

Those who have no access or have limited access to basic services, nutritious foods and

care infrastructure

Those who suffer gender violence

deleten 15-19

Those who are married or in unions at an early age

> Twenty-three per cent of women of ages 20-24 years old were married

or in union before

turning 18.

Four out of ten adolescents, have experienced violence at least once by their partners.

Fourteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest femicide rate out of 25 countries globally.

Those who have no access to sexual and and see their sexual and reproductive rights

reproductive health violated

> Girls, adolescents and indigenous and Afro-descendent women suffer double or triple discrimination

(poverty, rural, ethnicity, etc.).

56% pregnancies

of unplanned

The regional prevalence of child marriage has not decreased in the last three decades.

The region registers the second highest adolescent pregnancy rate in the world, with 20% of living births.



Groups that should be prioritised in public policies

Girls and adolescents from the region

Those belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendant people

Those who are forced to migrate or forced to move within or outside their countries

Those who live with some type of disability

Those living with HIV

Those who are in situations of humanitarian crises and natural disasters

Strategies and good practices to leave no women and girls behind and promote

social inclusion for those facing greater obstacles to their empowerment

Laws and policies that ensure equality

Strategies for adolescents to complete high school and receive comprehensive sexuality education

Generate the necessary information for political decision-making that reduces inequality

Develop policies with an ecological focus to reduce adolescent pregnancy, early unions, gender-based violence and prevention of HIV infections

Universal access to basic social services

Encourage the development of citizen participation platforms, including volunteer infrastructures and networks



resolution, this type of reference has been incorporated in 27% of peace agreements. Of the six agreements resulting from peace negotiations or national dialogue processes supported by the United Nations in 2014, 67% contained substantial references to women, peace and security.

The participation of women during all phases of the peace process and the subsequent implementation of agreements are directly related to sustainability. The participation of women increases the probability of an agreement lasting at least two years by 20% and the chance of it lasting 15 years by 35%¹.

Armed conflicts and direct violence, combined with restrictions on legislative frameworks in some countries in the region, have caused an increase in forced displacement in recent years, both globally and regionally. According to data gathered by the United Nations in 2016, one in every 113 people in the world are refugees, displaced, repatriated or stateless², of whom more than half are women and girls. In absolute terms, there are 65 million people, of whom almost nine million are located in Latin America, where armed conflict in Colombia (seven million people), violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador (more than 550,000 people)³, and statelessness in Caribbean countries (more than 100,000 people)4 have a greater impact on this situation.

Peace building in Colombia involves a process that includes material possibilities of equality that aim to close social, political and economic gaps between men and women and between more or less developed regions. According to the Unique Victims Register, 8,347,566 people are registered, of whom 3,995,481 are women and 1,879 are recognised as part of the LGTBI community. In terms of figures regarding gender inequalities, the Gender Inequality Index, compiled by the UNDP in 2015, shows

that Colombia has a score of 0.429, which places the country in 92nd position out of 155 countries for 2014.

In 2013, the Constitutional Court confirmed the increase in violence against women and girls in Colombia⁵, and more specifically against displaced female human rights activists and women's organisations, linked to the growing leadership of women in activities to defend and promote human rights⁶. The worsening of this situation triggers more displacement inside and outside the country and legitimises asylum requests both in Latin America and outside the continent. Furthermore, 550 cases of homicide related to sexual and/or gender orientation were reported between 2009 and 2014, including 86 transgender women and at least 18 persons defending the rights of these population groups⁷.

However, the majority of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean do not live in situations of armed conflict or post-conflict situations, but are affected in different ways by high levels of violence both in private and in public. This public health problem extends across the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean, with Central America being a region characterised in recent decades by high rates of delinquency and direct violence. It is estimated that two out of every three women murdered are victims of feminicide, the most extreme form of violence against women⁸. Regarding the situation for girls, four in every ten girls aged 15-19 years in the region have experienced violence at the hands of their partners at some point; 1.1 million adolescent girls aged 15-19 years have experienced sexual violence or another forced sexual act. Most perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence against girls and adolescents are known to them (partners, fathers, caretakers, family members, teachers, etc.)9.

Another factor to consider is the **new trend** in mass displacement in Central America: in recent years, migration has taken on an increasingly female dimension. Women represent 53% of all migrants born in a country in the region. There is a predominance of women, girls and adolescents in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras who emigrate or flee mainly to the United States, Mexico and other neighboring countries such as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Belize. The number of women in these three countries who try to cross the border with their children rose from 12,000 in 2013 to more than 66,000 in 2014. Furthermore, the number of unaccompanied girls trapped at the border between Mexico and the United States rose by 77% in 2014¹⁰, with a higher proportion of unaccompanied girls aged less than 14 years according to data available during 2016¹¹. Therefore, in this migration crisis special attention should be paid to the international protection needs for women and girls.

Along the migration route, women and girls are exposed to various forms of genderbased violence: physical violence, sexual abuse, rape, kidnapping, extortion, trafficking, exploitation, subjugation and illegal activities linked to drug trafficking. For example, six in every ten migrant women are victims of rape on their way to the United States¹². However, available information does not make it possible to understand the full picture of the increased risks faced by girls and adolescents during migration. On the other hand, the risk of women and girls suffering discrimination and physical and sexual abuse increases when international protection needs, the migration condition, displacement and gender intersect with other identities such as ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability¹³.

Sexual and gender-based violence in private and in public spheres is both a cause and consequence of the rise in the forced displacement of women and girls, including those with various sexual orientations and gender identities and disabilities, both within national borders and to other countries. The risks that women and girls face in countries in Central America's so-called Northern Triangle and during transit to their asylum and destination countries are particularly alarming¹⁴. This situation was highlighted at the High-Level Roundtable in San José 'Call to Action: Protection Needs in the Northern Triangle of Central America¹⁵, organised in Costa Rica in July 2016 by the Organisation of American States (OAS), with the support participation of inter-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies, academia and civil society.

Discrimination and violence against persons with various sexual orientations and/or gender identities are a widespread problem in countries in the Northern Triangle. In Honduras, the violent deaths of 174 people with this profile have been reported, with more murders in 2015 and higher levels of violence against these people in 2016¹⁶.

Regarding the situation for women and girls in the Caribbean, gender-based violence is the most significant and common danger that they face¹⁷. According to data from PAHO, approximately 50% of the first sexual experiences of adolescents in the region are neither voluntary nor consensual. The limitations and lack of appropriate international standards in nationality legislation in this area have led to the statelessness or the risk of statelessness for more than 100,000 people, of whom considerably more than half are women and girls.

Key messages

1. Peace is inseparably connected with gender equality and women's leadership.

The Security Council, in its 2000 Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, fully recognised this link. For instance, Colombian women, who have been the main victims of armed conflict, promoted the inclusion of a gender focus in the peace agreement and now define the terms of its implementation.

Target 3 of SDG 16 (peace, justice and inclusive institutions) involves promoting the rule of law in national and international plans and guaranteeing equal access to justice for all. During wars or conflicts, women tend to have fewer ways to protect themselves and, along with boys and girls, often make up most displaced and refugee populations. War tactics, such as sexual violence, are directed specifically at them. After the end of a conflict and the signing of peace accords, the effects of conflict-related violence persist for much longer. In too many cases, violence and insecurity do not disappear, and can even be exacerbated, for girls, adolescents and women due to widespread impunity for aggressors, the absence of effective judicial systems and the lack of reforms to the security sector. It is crucial to re-establish the rule of law to guarantee the security of women, the protection of their rights and ultimately, a fair peace.

In the wake of an armed conflict, transitional justice involves training in judicial actions, the search for truth, reparations, reforms to the judicial sector, national consultations and local accountability mechanisms as the basis for an inclusive society founded on the rule of law and accountability, and which contributes to reconciliation.

2. To end all forms of violence and all harmful practices, as set forth in target 1 of SDG 16 and targets 2 and 3 of SDG 5, it is vital that states focus on the most widespread form of violence in any society: violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls has negative repercussions in the short- and long-term on health and sexual and reproductive rights. The impact can range from injuries to negative consequences in terms of sexual and reproductive health, including unwanted pregnancies, gynecological problems and sexually transmitted disease, from HIV to death. Guaranteeing a healthy life and promoting the well-being of women and girls (SDG 3) is key to achieving sustainable development. The link between HIV and security was highlighted by the Security Council in Resolution 1308 (2000), in which it declared that HIV is one of the most important challenges to the development, progress and stability of societies.

Violence against women is also an obstacle for national development and poverty reduction goals (SDG 1). The design of public policies that can effectively address this phenomenon requires improvements in the extraction of disaggregated statistical data in the region, which is one of the greatest challenges within the citizen security agenda.

3. Discrimination against women and girls and sexual and gender-based violence are the cause and consequence of forced displacement and statelessness, are forms of persecution that legitimise recognition of the condition of the status of refugees or other procedures of international protection¹⁸

States must eliminate gender discrimination in nationality laws¹⁹ and guarantee that women and girls with various profiles, including those with different sexual orientations and/or

gender identities²⁰, and women with disabilities and other characteristics, have access to asylum and protection procedures that are appropriate for their needs, preventing their administrative irregularity and statelessness, including local integration measures to promote their empowerment and vital contribution to the achievement of sustainable human development.

Women and girls fleeing their countries and places of residence face major risks to their protection, particularly related to exploitation and sexual abuse²¹, or complications with pregnancy. Displaced persons, whose legal situation is irregular in many cases, are more vulnerable to HIV due to a series of factors such as the breakdown of the social structure, lack of income, sexual violence, abuse and a lack of medical and educational infrastructure.

On the other hand, the administrative irregularity of many migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls, as well as statelessness, hinder access to education and employment opportunities for a large section of society. Some of the challenges regarding the prevention of violence against migrant girls, adolescents and women is to reinforce the work coordinated between migration, asylum, displacement and statelessness authorities and competent authorities that promote the prevention of violence against women and girls and their protection. The coordination of migration policies, the improvement of protection systems for refugee, displaced, repatriated and stateless persons, genderbased violence prevention policies and child protection is needed in the region (women's ministries, judicial powers, national police and public ministries).

4. Women and girls must not only be considered victims of violence but also potential agents of change

The equal access and full participation of women, girls and adolescents in power structures and their full participation in all efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Women and girls who have been displaced as a result of armed conflicts and violence have provided clear examples of their specific contribution to host societies, creating business, supporting other women and girls through their active participation and leadership of civil society organisations, community volunteering and politics²².

5. All SDGs require a holistic understanding of the concept of peace and mainstreaming of the gender perspective

In this sense, it will not be possible to achieve sustainable development by 2030 without guaranteeing the peace and security of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In turn, an essential determinant for achieving peace is the creation of conditions that make it possible to build societies where the economic, social and political of girls, adolescents and women is ensured.

Examples of good practices, programmes and inter-agency initiatives

Chile: National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council 'Women, Peace and Security'

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with the emerging development of public policies on women, peace and security. In 2009, Chile became a pioneer in the region after the approval of a first National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) of the

United Nations Security Council 'Women, Peace and Security'. In 2015, it launched the second National Action Plan, involving the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Defense and SERNAM (the National Women's Service) in coordinating actions that seek to incorporate the gender perspective in strategies to prevent conflicts and peace-keeping operations; increasing the participation of women in decision-making; reinforcing and expanding measures guarantee the security and integrity of women and girls; and providing access to post-conflict recovery measures.

Colombia: including a gender perspective in the peace process

The Colombian peace process can currently be considered a **reference** in terms of incorporating a gender perspective. The creation of the Gender Subcommittee at the Havana Peace Talks Table was an important step forward, since it ensured the systematic incorporation of a gender focus in each agreement. Another strategy is the promotion of the participation of women in the Havana Peace Talks Table and spaces for dialogue at the regional and local level in Colombia, one of the most important and influential scenarios being the National Summit of Women and Peace, which has so far been held twice. The Summit was made possible thanks to a partnership of women's organisations, networks and platforms, with the support of the United Nations System in Colombia and the leadership of UN Women and international cooperation agencies.

Entering into the details, the peace accords incorporated very specific provisions with a gender perspective: guaranteeing access to and occupation of land for rural women; promoting the participation of women in decision-making areas to implement stable and lasting peace; measures to prevent and protect women in order to guarantee a life free of violence; or guaranteeing access to truth, justice and

anti-impunity measures; and the recognition of the various ways in which armed conflicts affect women disproportionately.

In the current phase of implementation of the peace agreements, figures produced by the United Nations Mission in Colombia show a positive trend toward the inclusion and participation of women. At 15%, the Colombia Mission currently has the highest percentage of female observers of all peace operations, and with the inclusion of locally deployed civilian observers, the proportion is 21%. Furthermore, women make up 55% of the Mission's substantive staff. Among the various initiatives of UN agencies, the IOM is working with UNICEF to assist girls and boys as part of the FARC demobilisation process and the support to the Colombian government. The UNHCR is supporting the Gender Table of the regional Mechanisms for Monitoring and Verification (MMV), as in the case of Medellín, which has created a space to address gender issues as part of the implementation of the peace agreements, including ending the armed conflict and preparing FARC and ELN guerrillas for reincorporation into civilian life.

The Sepur Zarco case in Guatemala: a historic advance in terms of transitional justice

In terms of transitional justice, various UN agencies including UN Women have supported the strategic legal case in Guatemala, and have specifically monitored the Sepur Zarco case. On January 27, 2016, a guilty verdict was issued against soldiers accused of war crimes committed in 1982 and 1983, sexual slavery crimes, rape, forced disappearances, mistreatment and discrimination against 11 women living near the Sepur Zarco camp. This sentence established a precedent globally and historically, as it was the first time that sexual violence was judged to be a war crime in a national court.

Prevention of violence against women, trafficking and feminicide in Central America

As part of the Central American Security Strategy of the Central American Integration System (SICA), the regional project BA.1 is being implemented in seven countries under the coordination of SICA, governments, the IOM and UNFPA. The project has contributed, among other things, to reinforcing the capacities of staff at competent institutions in the prevention and care of women who are survivors of violence; in updating interinstitutional protocols for addressing cases of violence against women; and via a regional diagnosis of the forms of violence and risks that women experience during migration.

Shelter for survivors of sexual and genderbased violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in Haiti

In Haiti, survivors of sexual and genderbased violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons face increased risks of protection. These include discrimination and persecution due to sexual and gender diversity. Thus, these people cannot safely access specialised services to prevent and address sexual and gender violence, including temporary shelters, sexual and reproductive health, or HIV prevention, among other emergency services. In view of this situation, UNHCR, OHCHR, the Governments of Colombia and the United States, the Haiti Office for the Protection of Citizens (Office de la Protection du Citoyen), SERVie, MADRE, FACDS and other local civil society organisations agreed to open a shelter for the survivors or sexual and gender violence. This shelter offered physical and mental security to LGBTI persons, including Colombian refugees and internally displaced Haitians, increasing international protection networks for this group of people, reinforcing awareness among the host population and

providing good practices for similar projects in Latin American and the Caribbean and in other regions²³.

On another note, one can highlight the vote by the Haitian parliament on March 22, 2017, in favor of ratifying the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless²⁴ Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR and other UN agencies worked together with the government of Haiti to facilitate this step toward eradicating statelessness. These efforts are part of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024, promoted by UNHCR in the continent²⁵.

- 1 Quantitative Analysis of Women's Participation in Peace Processes, Laurel Stone, annex II, in Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes
- 2 http://www.acnur.org/a-quien-ayuda/mujeres/
- 3 http://www.acnur.org/el-acnur/eventos/2016/ llamado-a-la-accion-necesidades-de-proteccionen-el-triangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/ listado-de-materiales/
- 4 http://globalfocus-interim.unhcr.org/population
- 5 Constitutional Court of Colombia, Auto 098/13, May 21, 2013.
- 6 Eligibility guidelines for the evaluation of international protection requirements for asylum seekers in Colombia, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), September 2015 HCR/EG/COL/15/01 http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=56333c144
- 7 Colombia Diversa and The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), Shadow Report on the LGBT Community in Colombia Presented to the Committee Against Torture, 9 March 2015,http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/COL/

- INT_CAT_CSS_COL_20164_E.pdf. See also: US DoS, 2013 HumanRights Report, p. 46 (noting at least 18 killings between January and August 2013 were reported, due to prejudice regarding sexual orientation or gender identity); IACHR, Truth, justice and reparation, 31 December 2013, http://www.oas. org/es/cidh/docs/pdfs/Justicia-Verdad-Reparacion-es. pdf, pp. 401-421. See also: UN CEDAW & IGLHRC, From Forced Sterilisation to Forced Psychiatry: Violations of the Human Rights of Women with Disabilities and Transgender Persons in Colombia, October 2013,https://iglhrc.org/sites/default/files/Shadow%20 Report%20CEDAW%20-%20English%20FINAL%20.pdf
- Nuevas Expresiones de Criminalidad contra las Mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe: Un Desafío del Sistema de Justicia en el siglo XXI (2013)
- UNICEF (2016), Niños y niñas en América Latina y el Caribe. Panorama 2016. Available at: https://www. unicef.org/lac/20170131_LACRO_CUADRIPTICO-LAC-2017_ESP_WEB.pdf
- 10 Unaccompanied Children from Central America: Foreign Policy Considerations. Congressional Research Service, p. 2, Peter J. Meyer, Clare Ribando Seelke, Maureen Taft-Morales, Rhoda Margesson (2014)
- 11 IMO (2016). Encuesta de hogares de Movilidad Humana. Niñez y Adolescencia Migrante no Acompañada Retornada en el Triángulo Norte de Centroamérica
- 12 Amnesty International, 2010
- 13 UNHCR (2015), Women on the Run: First-Hand Accounts of Refugees Fleeing El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico
- 14 Women on the Run report, UNHCR 2015
- 15 http://www.acnur.org/el-acnur/eventos/2016/ llamado-a-la-accion-necesidades-de-proteccion-en-eltriangulo-norte-de-centroamerica/
- 16 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Honduras, 27 July 2016, HCR/EG/HND/16/03, available at: http:// www.refworld.org/docid/579767434.htmEN, www. acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2017/11033.pdf SP
- 17 Source: Crime, Violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the Caribbean. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World

- Bank, 2007.
- 18 GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION: Persecution due to gender in the context of Article 1A(2) of 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, an/or its 1967 Protocolhttp://www.acnur. org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2002/1753.pdf
- 19 Ending gender discrimination in nationality laws, UNHCR http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/scripts/doc. php?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10258
- 20 Requests for the condition of refugees related to sexual orientation and/or gender identityin the context of Article 1A(2) of 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, an/or its 1967 Protocol http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/ opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=518113d54
- 21 Equality and Women's Autonomy in the Sustainable Development Agenda, ECLAC, Thirteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2016 http://repositorio.cepal.org/ bitstream/handle/11362/40633/4/S1601248_es.pdf
- 22 http://www.acnur.org/el-acnur/eventos/2017/ dia-internacional-de-la-mujer-2017/
- 23 Good practices report for 2015, p.28, available at http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/scripts/doc. php?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2016/10261.
- 24 http://www.acnur.org/noticias/noticia/ acnur-celebra-la-decision-de-haiti-sobre-apatridia/
- 25 http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/es/ plan-de-accion-mundial/







Peace

Six out of ten migrant women and girls are victims of rape on their way to the United States. There is no data about the increased risks of gender-based violence for girls on the migratory paths.

Worldwide, only 11% of the signed peace agreements include references to women and girls.

Colombia - the armed conflict has affected more than seven million people.

Caribbean

Gender-based violence is the most significant and common danger that women and girls face. Fifty per cent of the first sexual experience of female adolescents in this region has been against their will or under coercion. Different types of violence, such as physical, psychological, sexual or a combination of them, affect between 20 and 35 % of women in the Caribbean countries, according to data available until 2014.

The Colombian peace agreement is a model of integration of a gender perspective. Women's organisations were able to influence the peace process through the gender roundtables.

In Brazil, every year, 30,000 people between 15 and 24 years old are killed. Seventy-seven per cent of them are Afrodescendent. One young person every three minutes. That is why their mothers and Afro-descendent organisations created the campaign: 'My mother does not go to sleep until I come home.'



1.1 million girls and female adolescents, between 15 and 19 years old, have experienced sexual violence or some other kind of forced act.

Two out of three women who are murdered are victims of femicide.



Why peace leads to development

Peace is inseparably connected with gender equality and women's leadership.

Discrimination against women and girls and sexual and gender-based violence are the cause and consequence of forced displacement and statelessness.

All SDGS require a holistic understanding of the concept of peace and mainstreaming of the gender perspective.

There is not enough data on gender-based violence suffered by girls on the migration route.

To end all forms of violence and all harmful practices, as set forth in target 1 of SDG 16 and targets 2 and 3 of SDG 5, it is vital that states focus on the most widespread form of violence in any society: violence against women and girls.

Women and girls must not only be considered victims of violence but also potential agents of change.

The number of unaccompanied girls and female adolescents trapped at the border between Mexico and the United States increased by 77% in 2014, with a larger number of girls under 14 years old according to available data for 2016.











Key data on gender gaps

Despite the widespread entry of women into the workforce, their higher level of education and the significant contribution they make to the care of their families and the development of their countries, there remain strong patterns of gender inequality in the workplace. Women continue to face structural barriers to accessing decent work and the persistence of discrimination in the workplace. These barriers clearly show that gender inequality in accessing and controlling resources and in the workplace, and the persistent feminisation of poverty, are considerable challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean. These may cause a fall back in the condition of vulnerability and poverty for large sections of the population in the region. Data from the United Nations show that the economy of Latin America and the Caribbean

contracted for the second consecutive year in 2016, and for 2017 modest growth of 1.3% is projected. Faced with this situation, closing gender gaps, which according to some estimates may increase per capita GDP in the region by 14%¹, has become crucial.

Despite progress and the overall reduction of poverty in the region, it has been characterised by its feminisation over the past decade, passed on inter-generationally to girls and adolescents in the region, where one-third of households are in situations of multi-dimensional poverty, mostly in rural areas². Between 2002 and 2014, the proportion of poor women aged 20-59 years for every 100 poor men in the same age group rose from 107.1 to 118.2. In other words, poor women benefited less from the reduction in poverty than poor men in a context of economic prosperity and the expansion



of social protections³, a result of gender inequalities affecting childhood, particularly where the head of household is a woman. Recent studies⁴ have shown that inequalities, discrimination and exclusion, including gaps in gender, ethnicity and race, require urgent attention in public policies. In fact, poverty and destitution are marked by racial and ethnic gaps in the region, with levels that are much higher for indigenous women and those of African descent⁵.

In Latin America and the Caribbean⁶ the rate of women's participation in the workforce has

risen to 49.7%, though still below that of men (74.6%). Economic contraction affecting the region has meant that the unemployment rate among women in 2016 rose to 9.8%, i.e. 2.7 points above that of men⁷. Women's income is lower 'in all occupational segments' and their share of informal work is 54% compared with 48% for men⁸, which usually implies low pay and precarious working conditions. Women spend three times as long in unpaid work than men, and caring for children and the elderly falls on them. In recent decades efforts have been made to quantify the value of unpaid domestic work by women in national economies, using surveys on the use of time and satellite accounts for unpaid work. The use of this type of measure is growing in Latin America, where 18 countries have at least one tool to measure time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

Moreover, 79% of women in the region are employed in low-productivity sectors, where working conditions are worse. As a result of this, and although the percentage of women with higher education qualifications is greater than that of men, their wages (per **hour) are 16.4% less**⁹. Paid domestic work has been another traditional source of precarious employment in the region. In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 18 million women work in this way, and more than 77% work informally. This is especially the case of women with lower levels of education, indigenous women, those of African descent and migrant women¹⁰.

One in every three women in the region has no income of her own, while one in every ten men is in a similar condition, which is worse in rural areas where the proportions are much higher. Fifty-two per cent of rural adolescents and women aged over 15 years in Latin America and the Caribbean are considered economically inactive; and 37% undertake unpaid agricultural work for their

families, compared with only 11% for men. On the other hand, their access to the land and other productive assets is much lower than for men, with barely 30% of women owning land, 10% having access to credit, and 5.0% receiving technical assistance¹¹. Inequalities in the distribution, access and control of these productive resources has an impact on the restrictions that women face in Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of undertaking economic initiatives and generating their own income, enabling them to be autonomous in their decisions.

Women's access to social protection is measured by how they are connected with the labour market (less participation, higher unemployment, part-time work, informal work). This means women in LAC who are above the age of retirement are, on average, 8.9% less likely to receive a pension¹² than men. On the other hand, real maternity coverage, despite the existence of protective legislation, continues to be scarce due to the high levels of informal work and the concentration of women in 'atypical' forms of work that do not include coverage. Finally, although many countries have approved paternity leave, this is mostly very short, and therefore, progress in the incorporation of men in the care of their sons and daughters is clearly insufficient.

The lack of economic empowerment for women who are mothers **transmits intergenerational risks to children**, affecting survival, health, nutrition and the registration of girls and boys. Greater access and control by women to financial resources, as well as access to social protection systems, are related to improvements in child nutrition and preventive health behaviour, such as child immunisation¹³. On the other hand, the lack of opportunities transmitted to the same girls can hamper the development of their capabilities, which are needed to achieve economic empowerment and the transition to adulthood.

The economic empowerment of women is also limited by high levels of violence in general, as well as violence in the workplace. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, violence against women is associated with a fall of between 1.6% and 4.0%14 of the GDP in Latin America. Women who are the victims of violence more often tend to be absent from the workplace, have lower levels of performance and are unable to concentrate, which has a direct impact on productivity. Violence against women is also associated with high mortality rates among infants and children aged under the age of five¹⁵. The exposure of girls and boys to violence among couples can have similar consequences to those produced by child abuse and abandonment, and increases the risk of transmitting violence inter-generationally: exposure to violence in childhood (as a victim or witness) increases the risk of experiencing perpetrating violence in adolescence and adulthood. The costs of violence in the workplace and its impact on the economic performance of businesses are combined with the social costs for the state.

Key messages

Reversing the situation described above in the context of accelerated changes in the world of work and the rise of poverty in the region requires specific actions to combat this situation and prevent its reproduction as a result of these changes.

The adoption of policies on care, social protection, access to physical and financial assets and more inclusive and egalitarian labour qualifications, enabling the breakdown of the structural barriers that women face in paid and unpaid work, are essential to guaranteeing progress in the region.

Without gender parity in the workplace, there will be no uniform and egalitarian progress, and the region will suffer from substantial risks,

with thousands of people falling into poverty. Therefore, those who have a responsibility to formulate public policies face a double challenge: on the one hand, protecting achievements in terms of gender equality in the context of an economic slowdown, and overcoming persistent obstacles that hamper the economic empowerment of women, and on the other hand, taking into account the intergenerational transmission that these obstacles impose on future generations. To achieve this, the following points are considered essential:

1. Contribute to macroeconomic policies that promote the economic empowerment of women and redistribute resources for gender equality.

Both the structure of the economy and economic cycles are not gender-neutral. They can reproduce or alter the gender division of work and thus contribute or not to the economic empowerment of women. In other words, not any type of economic growth produces positive effects, and it does not always offer opportunities for all women. The evidence and lessons from implemented policies show that a new cycle of structural adjustment in countries in the region would not only have the same high social cost, particularly for gender equality, but would also postpone economic recovery. In this context, the following measures are suggested¹⁶:

- Avoid overly restrictive monetary policies. Although the margin for strong monetary expansion is limited, it is possible to revert to the use of reserves and responsible borrowing, and to utilise interest rates that have no contracting effects. This will help to avoid procyclical effects. These measures will help to protect economic activity and, therefore, employment.
- Mantain or enable low exchange rates to sustain competitivity in a context of low

international demand and low commodity prices. This makes it possible to maintain activity and employment rates and limit the adverse effect that a recession has on female employment.

- Protect social expenditure with positive effects on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In order to continue advancing in terms of the economic empowerment of women and girls, spending priorities must be adjusted in favour of areas that promote gender equality and support the realisation of rights. Investment in adolescent girls must occur in the context of a comprehensive agenda, including key areas for their economic empowerment, such as: a) life skills and vocational training; b) school interventions; c) monetary transfers; d) campaigns and models to monitor and change gender norms; and e) access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- Incorporate gender focus in a programmes set up to administer, reduce and prevent debt in Caribbean countries. The high levels of debt in the Caribbean force countries to implement structural adjustment programmes. It is also frequently the case that countries are obligated to initiate debt renegotiations or, despite high levels of borrowing, to incur new debt to address the effects of natural disasters. These programmes must protect investments in favour of women and encourage the reform of monetary transfer programmes with a gender focus.
- Increase available fiscal resources via a new fiscal agreement. It is essential to design progressive tax systems that seek to redistribute income and correct socioeconomic imbalances, so that women and the most disadvantaged groups do not carry a disproportionate burden. The regressive effect of indirect taxation on

the consumption of products and basic services (value added tax or sales tax) must therefore be avoided for women. On the other hand, in Caribbean countries, where debt and vulnerability to external events is high, the creation of anticyclical fiscal buffers is particularly urgent to better absorb economic and environmental shocks.

- Make progress toward gender-aware, redistributive public spending to stabilise demand for goods and services, protect employment, guarantee the economic security of women in the short-term and provide conditions for their economic empowerment in the medium- and long-term. Gender-sensitive budgets seek to shift the formulation of fiscal and budgetary policies toward obtaining better results in terms of gender equality. This implies that it is not only necessary to access more tax resources, but also to redirect current public spending.
- 2. Promote deeper linkages between national gender equality policies and sectoral policies, such as employment, formalisation, diversification of production and entrepreneurship, so that these sectoral policies incorporate specific goals on the reduction of gender inequalities and specific strategies and budgets to achieve this.

The current situation of economic contraction in the region has already led to a rise in the rate of unemployment, a drop in wages and an increase in informal work – all of which affect women and young people, predominantly women. Behind these data lie horizontal and vertical segregation, wage gaps, the penalisation of maternity, gender-based violence and the almost complete assignation of care responsibilitities to women. Advancing toward greater coordination between national equality policies and sectoral policies and strengthening

the links between economic and social policies are two key aspects to changing this situation.

Some examples of these policies are:

- Youth employment policies and programmes that should include measures directed at young women with no education or work (mostly for reasons related to household tasks and early motherhood) and facilitate the transition from school to work, which is greater and more difficult for women.
- Policies to reduce informal work that have a gender focus and integrate specific actions to support the growth of women's businesses and reduce informal domestic work.
- Policies to diversify production that include gender-specific goals to guarantee that mothers integrate further in sectors of higher productivity, where they are currently a minority. Equally, for women to access these jobs, innovative policies are required aimed at reducing the digital gender gap so that women can obtain new ICT-related jobs.
- Effective measures against labour discrimination, from legislative measures to prohibit discrimination in hiring, promotions and professional training to sanctions for sexual harassment and other forms of violence in the workplace. Progress is also needed with social control mechanisms that, as with measures against domestic violence, help with the prevention, notification and punishment of violence at work. It is also important for trade unions to continue to incorporate the specific needs of women and the defense of their rights as a priority in their agendas.
- Policies to determine and adjust minimum wages. Countries in the region are increasingly adopting policies that set minimum wages that respect the concept of equal pay

for equal work. Because women disproportionately undertake low-paid work, it has been shown that they benefit more than men from these policies.

Support women's access to land tenure and other essential resources for their economic empowerment (e.g. technology, credit, intermediary financial services) and strengthen the capacities of women's agricultural cooperatives in achieving greater participation in political decision-making processes at all levels.

Furthermore, highlight one can the increasing involvement of the private sector in implementing these policies in businesses, through various initiatives and tools, such as:

- Equality policies in businesses that contribute to closing gender gaps in the workplace. This involves transforming employment structures and the management of human resources in businesses to eliminate existing gender inequalities and prevent businesses from misusing their human resources, and avoid continuing or even deepening inequalities¹⁷. In addition to generating employment and wealth for society, the goal is for businesses to be spaces for egalitarian work that contributes to a better and fairer society.
- Inclusion of gender clauses in collective agreements negotiated between businesses and trade unions, which has enabled progress in areas such as policies to promote work/life balance, and the prevention and fight against sexual harassment.
- 3. Continue to advance toward universal access to social protection for women.

Social protection is a key policy tool in tackling social exclusion, inequality and poverty. Social protection programmes have significantly helped in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the new 2030 Agenda. However, high rates of informal work require the coordination of social security and the labour market with other initiatives such as national social protection floors to guarantee wider protection.

Social security regimes in the region have been built on a model of men as wage earners, contributing to the systems and thus receiving coverage, and of women as 'additional wage earners' or non-wage earners, depending on men's coverage. Given the complexity in breaking this mould, various countries are introducing measures to limit its negative impact. For example, many pension systems include single-sex calculation tables discrimination against women, eliminate whose life expectancy is higher; others recognise the birth of children in calculating pensions, with career interruptions for women due to their reproductive role. On the other hand, an increasing number of countries have incorporated maternity protection for categories of workers that were previously excluded, such as domestic or temporary farm workers. Continued progress in these areas is fundamental in advancing toward contributive systems that are more egalitarian from a gender perspective.

To meet the needs of groups with no access contributive social protection, countries in the region are designing national social protection floors, which include four basic guarantees: access to essential health, minimum wage throughout life, for children, for those of working age who cannot receive an income and for the elderly. Including the specific needs of women involves questioning the traditional mechanisms of resource allocation that conceal gender inequalities, both within families and in societies, and recognising the care of dependent persons as a

key component of social protection. Complying with the requirements of conditional transfer programmes has fallen mostly on women which has limited their time to engage in paid work. To mitigate this negative impact, it is recommended to invest in care systems and job training schemes so that all women and their families can sustainably escape poverty.

4. Recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, and regulate paid care work.

To identify the gender gaps that the social protection floors should address, it involves overcoming the systematic assignation of care tasks to women; estimating and taking into account the economic and social costs of the reproduction and care of dependent persons; and recognising social security as a universal human right, which is not only associated with labour market contributions or assistance programmes¹⁸.

With the recognition of the inter-sectionality of discrimination, **affirmative action measures** in favour of women and girls in conditions of greater vulnerability should be included to overcome the obstacles they face in accessing, using and controlling basic services.

Progress toward the greater economic autonomy of women requires a new gender contract based on the shared social responsibility of care, which recognises the value of this work, reduces it via investment in quality services, and redistributes it within families and society.

Public policy recommendations include:

 Improving care systems in early childhood. Increasing the availability of affordable, quality childcare services that are consistent with the needs of working mothers and fathers can result in substantial economic and social benefits. These make it possible to train and educate girls and boys, create work with distinct levels of qualification and reduce the cost of women's opportunities to leave the labour market. Obtaining this 'triple dividend' requires childcare staff to be properly trained in creating a stimulating learning environment – which includes adequate salaries and working conditions, including training opportunities.

- Investing in care services for the elderly to address the increasing age of the population of many countries in the region. Care of the elderly continues to be a family matter for most households, given the limited existence of care services for this population. Therefore, its expansion can be converted into an important source of employment in healthcare for many people, including women, in the region.
- Combating the systemic under-valuation of unpaid care work via the certification, formalisation and growing social recognition of care services, in coordination with various professional colleges and key employers.
- Reforming maternity, paternity and parental leave: the coverage for such leave in the region is insufficient for both women and men, with considerable gaps depending on socio-economic levels. Reforms should include specific measures to ensure the fairer distribution of responsibilities between women and men.
- Investing in basic social infrastructure such as drinking water, sanitation and electricity is especially relevant to reduce the burden of domestic and care work, particularly among women in rural areas and vulnerable situations, so that they have more time for productive, educational or leisure activities.

In the past decade important, though insufficient, steps have been achieved in this direc-

tion. Countries such as Costa Rica or Uruguay have made substantive progress in designing integrated care systems that incorporate all care-dependent populations and with a focus on the shared social responsibility of care. These policies advocate for investment in quality care services that guarantee the well-being of those receiving care, as well as the compatibility of services, in terms of schedules and days, with women's labour inclusion, thus promoting gender equality. Furthermore, both cases firmly incorporate the role of men as care givers and assign roles to various actors in society to achieve the goal of shared social responsibility.

Good practices

Inter-agency project on social protection floors in the Caribbean

This initiative was designed given the concerns about the impact of the economic crisis on vulnerable populations. UN Women, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank undertook Social Safety Net Assessments in six countries in the Caribbean in 2009/2010: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The assessments revealed various common challenges, including the need to rationalise the plethora of social protection programmes implemented various ministries; improve their targeting mechanisms; generate central beneficiary registries; and create robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. They provided the basis for multilateral engagement on social protection in the region, including technical support to Eastern Caribbean governments funded by World Bank loans and grants. At the national level, UN Women took advantage of a space for dialogue and knowledge sharing that Saint Lucia's Permanent Secretary had established with the aim of identifying the technical support to be provided by the World

Bank, UNICEF and UN Women. This allowed for a critical and constructive discussion of approaches to social protection with the World Bank based on the knowledge products developed by UNICEF and UN Women. While there was not always agreement, there were clear instances of impact, as the example of the inclusion of childcare services shows. The gains made in this process were only a first step towards truly universal and gender-responsive social protection systems in the region.

For more information, you can read the Policy Brief at: http://www.unwomen.org/ en/digital-library/publications/2017/2/ making-social-protection-gender-responsive

Interagency initiative (ILO, UNDP, UN Women) - Social protection floors and gender

This initiative began with the launch of the sub-regional report 'Combatiendo la desigualdad desde lo básico. Piso de protección social e igualdad de género' ('Combating inequality from the outset. Social protection floors and gender equality'), as a result of the joint work of the UNDP, ILO and UN Women, which aimed to contribute to the debate on social security models in Central America (Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala) and the Dominican Republic, and to analyse their frameworks, methodologies and practical application from a gender equality perspective. As a result of the gender gaps identified in the report and the subsequent dialogue in various countries, the governments of the Dominican Republic and El Salvador requested the integration of the gender dimension in existing social protection systems, followed by integral support for its implementation. In the Dominican Republic, for example, a joint project between the Vice-Presidency and three agencies called 'Piso de Protección Social y Género' ('Social Protection Floors and Gender') has been developed, leading to the launch in 2015 of the results of the 'Mapeo y análisis de

género de los programas de protección social y del Sistema de Seguridad Social de la República Dominicana' report ('Mapping and Gender Analysis of Social Protection Programmes and the Social Security System in the Dominican Republic'), and in 2016 of the 'Hacia un Piso de Protección Social con Perspectiva de Género en la República Dominicana: Escenarios y Costos' report ('Toward a Social Protection Floor with a Gender Perspective in the Dominican Republic: Scenarios and Costs'), which presented the results of the analysis and the costing of the measures identified as priorities in various scenarios, in order to close existing gender gaps with social protection floors that focus on rights and gender. The costing was performed by applying the Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP) developed by the ILO and adapted with a gender focus for this initiative.

Design and cost of care policies: UNDP/ILO

In 2014, the ILO and UNDP conducted the study 'Conciliación con corresponsabilidad social en El Salvador: Reflexiones y aportes para la construcción de una agenda nacional de cuidados' ('Reconciliation with shared social responsibility in El Salvador: reflections and contributions for the construction of a national care agenda'), which analysed the situation and proposed strategies to advance toward a society with greater shared responsibility. Later, ECLAC complemented the information with a diagnosis of the gaps. Based on these documents, the ILO and UNDP have provided support to the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency since 2015 in designing the National Care Policy for dependent persons. To achieve this, the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency called for the creation of a Care Roundtable, made up of the National Council for Children and Adolescents, the Secretariat for Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Women, the Council for People with Disabilities, among others, to develop the policy document. This document is being distributed and consulted more widely with other sectors of society, such as the private sector, workers' organisations, and others, whose role is key to its implementation. The cost of various services is currently being worked on, including in policy terms, so that information on the costs of implementation for the country is available and gradually expanding strategies can be designed to make this universal.

Furthermore, the ILO is currently supporting the Ministry of Employment in drawing up the National Employment Policy, which includes care for dependent persons as a fundamental factor in creating decent work in the country.

Campaign to promote the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers (ILO-UN Women)

Paid domestic work is one of the biggest sources of paid work for women. According to ILO data, 16,740,000 women in Latin America perform this activity, which means that 14 in every 100 female workers are care workers. These figures are higher if girls and undocumented migrant women are taken into account, as they are usually not recorded in statistics¹⁹. Indigenous women and those of African descent are over-represented in domestic work; furthermore, women continually migrate to other countries where wages for domestic work may be higher. In terms of labour conditions, this work is usually performed in precarious situations, with no shelter offered by national labour laws, no protection from minimum wage laws, and no social protection rights²⁰. The adoption of ILO Convention No. 189 on domestic workers in 2011 represents an international commitment at the highest level to extend basic employment rights such as working hours, minimum wages, maternity leave and social security provisions to this activity. In Latin America and the Caribbean, 13 countries have ratified the Convention: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In this context, UN Women and the ILO have provided advocacy and technical assistance to support the ratification of ILO Convention No. 189, as well as the adaptation of national regulations in line with the standards of ILO Convention No. 189 and its implementation through concrete public policies. These advocacy and support strategies have been implemented in various countries in the region, including Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. Furthermore, the ILO, as part of its strategy to combat informal work in the region, has provided technical assistance in various areas such as minimum wages, social security, organisation, legislative changes, labour inspections and health and security at work in a large number of countries in the region.

- The power of parity: How advancing women's equality can add US\$12 trillion to global growth, McKinsey Global Institute, September 2015.
- 2 ECLAC, Gender Equality Observatory (2016). Índice de feminidad en hogares pobres, Autonomía económica (http://oig.cepal.org/es/indicadores/ indice-feminidad-hogares-pobres).
- Regional Report, El Progreso de las Mujeres en las Américas y el Caribe 2017. Transformar las Economías para realizar los derechos. UN Women, 2017.
- See, inter alia: Informe Regional sobre Desarrollo Humano para América Latina y el Caribe: El progreso multidimensional: bienestar más allá del ingreso (UNDP, 2016), and El progreso de las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe: transformar las economías para realizar los derechos (UN Women, 2017).
- ECLAC (2016). La matriz de la desigualdad social en América Latina.
- Labour Overview, 2016, ILO Regional Office.
- Labour Overview, 2016, ILO Regional Office.
- Regional report on 'Decent work and gender equality', compiled jointly by ECLAC, FAO, UNDP, UN Women and ILO in November 2013.

- Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, Multidimensional progress: Well-being beyond income (UNDP, 2016).
- 10 Regional Progress Report on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017. Transforming economies, realising rights. UN Women. 2017
- 11 Protección social de las trabajadoras de la agricultura familiar en América Latina y el Caribe: avances y desafíos, FAO, 2015.
- 12 Women at Work Trends 2016, International Labour Organisations.
- 13 UNICEF. Gender Influences on Child Survival, Health and Nutrition: A Narrative Review (2011). Available at: http://www.unicef.org/gender/files/Gender_Influences_ on_Child_Survival_a_Narrative_review.pdf
- 14 IDB. (2014). EL PAPEL DEL BID EN LA ATENCIÓN Y LA PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CONTRA LA MUJER EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE. 2017, IDB website: http://www.iadb.org/es/temas/genero-pueblosindigenas-y-afrodescendientes/brochure-violenciacontra-la-mujer8014.html
- 15 World Health Organisation, Press Centre (2016). Violence against women. Intimate partner and sexual violence against women.
- 16 Regional Progress Report on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017. Transforming economies, realising rights. UN Women. 2017; Policies to Formalise Paid Domestic Work in Latin America and the Caribbean, ILO, 2016
- 17 For more information see the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme for Public and Private Enterprises, UNDP http://americalatinagenera.org/ newsite/index.php/es/empresas-por-la-igualdad, and the website of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) supported by the UN Global Compact and UN Women http://www.weprinciples.org/
- 18 Subregional report, Fighting inequality from the basics: The social protection floor and gender equality (UNDP, ILO, UN Women)
- 19 ILO, 2016. Policies to Formalise Paid Domestic Work in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 20 UN Women, 2015. Regional Progress Report on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017. Transforming economies, realising rights, New York, p. 106.





Prosperity



Women still face structural barriers that prevent them from participating equally in the workforce.

The participation rate of women reached 49% compared to 74.6% for men.

Women dedicate three times more time to reproductive and care tasks than men.

Limited control and access to natural and financial resources

Persistence of genderbased violence

One out of three women do not have her own income, while one out of ten men find themselves in this condition.

The lack of economic empowerment of women who are mothers transmits intergenerational risks to childhood, affecting their development.

The unemployment rate of women is 9.8%, 2.7 points higher than men's, and the informality rate is of 54%, compared to 48% for men.



Seventy-nine per cent of women in the region are working in low productivity sectors, despite having better education levels than men.

Fifty-two per cent of adolescent and rural women older than 15 years in LAC are considered economically inactive, and 37% are dedicated to agricultural, non-remunerated family activities, compared to only 11% of men.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, over 18 million women are domestic workers, and 77% of them work in informality. In this sector, there are mainly women with lower education, indigenous women, Afrodescendent and migrants.

Closing the gender gaps could **increase** the **GDP** per capita in the region of **14%** by 2030.

During the last decade, poverty has been feminised.

The proportion of poor women between 20 and 59 years old, by every 100 men of the same age rank, increased from 107.1 to 118.2.

One-third of households with girls and female adolescents are in a situation of multidimensional poverty, mainly located in rural areas.

How to achieve prosperity from a gender perspective

Contribute to macroeconomic policies that promote the economic empowerment of women and redistribute resources for gender equality.

- Avoid overly restrictive monetary policies.
- Maintain or enable low exchange rates to sustain competitivity.
- Protect social expenditure with positive effects on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Incorporate a gender focus in programmes set up to administer, reduce and prevent debt in Caribbean countries.
- Increase available fiscal resources via a new fiscal agreement.
- Make progress toward gender-aware, redistributive public spending.
- Continue to advance toward universal access to social protection for women.
- Incorporate the specific needs of women in contributive regimes and national social protection floors.
- Incorporate maternity protection for categories of workers that were previously excluded, like domestic workers or temporary workers in the agricultural sector.
- Encourage increased investments in care systems and vocational training.

- Promote deeper linkages between national gender equality policies and sectoral policies, such as employment, formalisation, diversification of production and entrepreneurship, so that these sectoral policies incorporate specific goals on the reduction of gender inequalities and specific strategies and budgets to achieve this.
- Youth employment policies and programmes should include measures directed at young women with no education or work and facilitate the transition from school to work which is greater and more difficult for women.
- Take measures against discrimination and gender violence in the workplace.
- Support the access of rural women to land tenure and other essential resources.
- Encourage minimum wage policies that promote equal pay for equal work.
- Promote the development of equality policies in companies.
- Include gender clauses in collective agreements.

Recognise, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, and regulate paid care work.

- Improve care systems in early childhood and invest in care services for the elderly.
- Combat the systemic under-valuation of unpaid care work.
- Reform maternity, paternity and parental leave.
- Invest in basic social infrastructure.





Key data on gender gaps

The importance of gender equality and the participation of women and girls for sustainable development and disaster risk management

The 2030 global agenda represents an historic opportunity for sustainable development as it integrates into its focus and into the 17 SDGs the global agreements and frameworks concerning the fight against poverty, human rights and the environment, such as, inter alia, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The integrated approach of the 2030 Agenda calls for the promotion of policies, programmes and plans, which count with adequate resources and which promote human rights and social, economic and planetary well-being. More particularly, all the SDGs make concrete references to the environmental dimension of sustainable development as a cross-cutting issue which, as with gender equality, must be included in all actions.

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions which most heavily relies on its natural capital¹ as its national strongly economies continue to be based on primary products and natural resources (e.g. soy, coffee, sugar and meat, oil, coal, copper and other minerals)². Agricultural activities provide 16% of the region's employment³, and income from agricultural exports accounts for 23% of the region's total exports. Ecosystem services, biodiversity and productive land continue to be wasted and degraded due, inter alia, to the persistence of extractive economies coupled with unplanned urban growth and the expansion of the agricultural frontier. At the same time, large-scale public-funded

systems are almost universally controlled by men, and favour male farmers who, for the most part, have land tenure rights that make them qualified to access these programmes. This has resulted in the **discrimination of women**, for instance, in the **allocation of irrigated land** and in their **membership in associations of water users.** As shown by energy demand, which is expected to double by 2030, and by water consumption, estimated to exceed the available supply in the next decade, the pressure for natural resources is increasing.

The role of women in the sustainable management of natural resources, in capacity building and in the construction of community resilience mechanisms is well documented, particularly by organisations of rural and indigenous women⁴. Rural women play an important role in the preservation of biodiversity through the conservation of seeds, in the recovery of agro-ecological practices, and in supporting food sovereignty and security with the production of healthy food⁵.

Therefore, rural women continue to live in a situation of social and political inequality, as attested by, for example, their limited rights⁶ to tenure (access, use and transfer)⁷ and land inheritance, which limit the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment as necessary conditions to eradicate poverty and hunger. Agricultural censuses indicate that, in Latin America and the Caribbean, women in charge of an agricultural holding (largely cropping farms) account for 8.0% in Belize and Guatemala, and no more than 30% in Chile, Jamaica and Saint Lucia⁸. Women represent less than 12% of the beneficiary population in agrarian reform processes, as they are included in the policies concerning access to land through the market only in a subordinate and minority way - according to their marital status and their capacity as mothers, and not as producers9. Furthermore, they receive only 10% of loans and 5.0% of technical assistance for the sector¹⁰.

On average, almost half of indigenous women live in rural areas (48.9%)¹¹. The right and access to the land-territory is a central issue in the political agenda of rural and indigenous women's organisations¹². For them, this demand is related to other issues affecting them in a particular way; for instance, the situation of women human rights activists and defenders of mother earth and territory¹³, and the negative effects of climate change on food security and sovereignty. These circumstances, coupled with the lack of social recognition of women as producers, as owners and as decision-makers, are obstacles which persist to the detriment of the social, economic and legal empowerment of rural and indigenous women. Moreover, the gaps in the availability of data on indigenous women demonstrate that information is a fundamental tool for the design and monitoring of equality policies and for the promotion of human rights.

On the other hand, LAC is one of the regions with the greatest exposure to natural hazards and with a high vulnerability index, related to the risk of disasters. It is estimated that a third of its population lives in areas highly exposed to geological and hydro-meteorological hazards, and thus, it is vulnerable to the adverse effects of the increasing frequency and magnitude of extreme hydro-meteorological events. This is aggravated by the ongoing processes of degradation of natural resources and the unsuitable use of land, which reduce the ecosystems' protective capacity, increasing the vulnerability of communities and territories, and therefore, also the impact of variability and climate change on food and nutrition security, livelihood and the basis of people's well-being. This situation is exemplified by the heavier constraints which women and girls have to face to access and use key resources (such as land and water). It also disproportionately affects livelihoods, the agricultural sector¹⁴ and food and nutritional security (SAN), and it can lead to the complete loss of a community survival base in the event of a disaster. This has implications for the increase in poverty levels and even for processes of migration and displacement.

At the same time, Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most urban regions on the planet. In 2015, approximately 250 million of LAC women lived in urban areas, where limited access to education, health and basic social infrastructure services remains a challenge. Twelve and a half per cent of femaleheaded (urban) households were in conditions of extreme poverty¹⁵. Furthermore, because of population density, inadequately planned growth, precarious housing and often limited compliance with rules and regulations, cities present situations of risk different from those of the rural environment, but that imply a great vulnerability of a significant part of the population. In this context, it is necessary to have a better understanding of the processes of use and occupation of the territory and of the social, economic and environmental relations, whether they lead to hazardous conditions or not. This entails the need to make a special effort to collect disaggregated data (by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, among other socio-demographic factors) in order to establish baselines for measuring progress and compliance with the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the relevant SDGs (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, approved by UN member states, recognises that between 2005 and 2015 women and girls, as well as other people living in vulnerable conditions, have been affected by disasters in a disproportionate manner.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognises the need for women and men to be equally represented in all aspects of the Convention process, and for climate action to respond to the different needs, experiences, priorities and capacities of women and men¹⁶. The Convention includes as its most relevant objectives for gender equality: (1) Improve gender balance and increase the participation of women in all UNFCCC processes, including in delegations and bodies constituted under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and 2) Raise awareness and support for the development and effective implementation of gender-sensitive climate policies at the regional, national and local levels.

Sub-regional strategies such as, *inter alia*, the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Results Framework of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Central American Policy on Integral Management of Disaster Risk (PCGIR) of the Centre for Coordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), as well as the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in South America, in the process of being developed by UNASUR High Level Working Group on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management (GTANGRD), highlight the importance of including a gender approach in national risk management and reduction plans. Similarly, global and regional frameworks and agreements emphasise the need to ensure an approach focussed on gender, disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change in national development plans. To be able to comply with all the above, it is necessary to work to ensure that the databases of both damages and losses, as well as the impact of disasters and climate change rely on information disaggregated, among others, by sex and age. It is also important to promote a collective and differentiated understanding of these issues, in addition to a governance led by states but, in turn, shared with all social actors.

Climate change scenarios and the inci- event of disasters. If climate change worsens, the risks of physical hazards caused by extreme

Climate change scenarios for the region include a significant decline in agricultural and water availability, vields economic losses and changes in food prices and availability that can be replicated from the local to the global level. In addition to affecting economic systems and agricultural production in the region, climate change has social impacts that tend to aggravate poverty because they directly affect the living conditions of families and communities, aggravating food insecurity, precarious housing, quality and quantity of water for consumption, health conditions and, in general, inequalities between men and women¹⁷.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the consequences of climate change and disasters are especially important because land use patterns (including deforestation, the limited control over urbanisation, occupation of watersheds, the number of people living in areas of low elevation above sea level, among others) generate major social vulnerability to extreme weather events.

The increasing climate variability that is already evident in the region is increasing the probability of extreme hydro-meteorological events (hurricane, storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves, etc.), disproportionately affecting populations living in vulnerability, particularly the poorest. According to a study by the London School of Economics in 141 countries¹⁸, it was identified that more women than men die from natural hazards and that this disparity is linked to the unequal socioeconomic status of women. The dangers of climate change are more pronounced for boys and girls than for adults. Children are more vulnerable to disease, facing bigger risks of malnutrition, diarrheal diseases, respiratory diseases and vector-borne diseases in the event of disasters. If climate change worsens, the risks of physical hazards caused by extreme weather events will mean that it is children who will suffer the most, especially those already living in poverty¹⁹.

The impacts of hydro-meteorological phenomena and climate change deepen the existing difficulties of access to natural and productive resources, amplify existing gender inequalities and endanger the well-being of all. The gender-differentiated consequences of disasters and climate change intensify factors that negatively affect women who depend on agriculture and the use of natural resources for their livelihoods, health and access to water. As agricultural labour becomes more intensive or alternative sources of income and food are to be found, additional workload falls on women, and in many cases these tasks fall on girls and adolescents in the household. Responsibilities for food management include water supply, which means that, with changes in water availability, this affects the time and effort required by women to collect, secure, distribute and store this resource. This leaves them with less time to earn their own income. to participate in decision-making at the local level, or to study or attend vocational training, limiting their empowerment and their availability to rise out poverty or to prevent their fall into poverty after a disaster, related or not to climate change.

These scenarios of inequality, marginalisation and deprivation of rights are perpetuated throughout the life course of women and girls and in the next generation, creating obstacles on the way to the future empowerment of girls and adolescents. In urban areas, absence or insufficiency of services, lack of information, lack of early warning systems and lack of time to participate in local risk management mechanisms expose women and girls more acutely in case of disasters such as earthquakes, floods or landslides.

Disasters caused by natural hazards, which according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) seems to be occurring more frequently, have particularly damaging consequences for the population of Smalls Islands Developing States (SIDS) from the Caribbean comparing with others areas of Latin America according to the proportion of population affected and the GDP, hindering the benefits of economic development. In fact, the Caribbean region is one of the most hazardprone regions in the world. The average estimate of annual losses by tropical cyclones is significant. Changes in the intensity and annual frequency of hurricanes in the Caribbean have been estimated to result in additional annual losses of \$446 million by 2080²⁰, from impacts on population, infrastructure and the economy, especially the disruption of the tourism sector.

The relationship of these trends to migration and displacement

All these situations of vulnerability, more significant environmental and climate-related risk and limited access to resources and opportunities are influencing the greater intensity of migratory flows in the region in the last ten years. A phenomenon that in some other countries affects mostly women. In some countries where the mining explorations have increased, this has exacerbated almost forced migrations due to river pollution and the disruption of the natural bases of community livelihoods. The causes of migration of indigenous peoples and women from their territories of origin are associated with structural factors such as the pressure on their lands derived from exploitation of natural resources, environmental deterioration and material poverty, as well as the scarce availability of state services, mainly of secondary or higher education²¹.

On the other hand, the recurrent displacements of populations affected by the effects of natural

disasters, conflicts and violence have an impact on women's lives, access to livelihoods, access to and control of land. In Latin America and the Caribbean, women constitute more than half of the population that has migrated²².

Key messages

Message 1: The importance of generating evidence and statistics disaggregated by sex, age, gender, ethnicity, disability and origin²³, and to formulate public policies for sustainable development that leave no one behind.

- Understand how food insecurity, climate change and disasters affect men, women and children differently is an essential step before designing programmes and policies that respond to the needs of those facing the greatest obstacles to their development. In the framework of the SDGs, states have the obligation to generate and analyse data disaggregated by sex, age and other variables.
- It is necessary to consider the specific and differentiated needs expressed by rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women, girls and adolescents in the diagnosis of food security, disaster risk reduction and management and adaptation to climate change, considering their ethnic diversity and geographic location, as well as promoting the adoption of concrete prevention and care measures that include intercultural approaches that allow them to guarantee the development of their potential and the exercise of their rights.
- Emphasis should be placed on the importance of generating evidence to reflect and understand the obstacles women face in accessing land tenure and other natural resources or productive

assets and the implications this has for their well-being, that of their families and their communities. In addition, this will help make visible their contribution to the economy (family, local and national), to food security sovereignty, to conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, to protection against disaster risk and climate change, to their participation in organisational processes. These are among some of the issues that contribute to community resilience and sustainable development.

Message 2: Promote women and girls as agents of change who help strengthen resilience to disaster risks and climate change, including in disaster prevention, mitigation and response interventions, as well as adaption to climate change.

- Women and girls are not only vulnerable to risks of disasters and climate change, but are also effective change agents. They have broad knowledge that can be used in risk mitigation and adaption to climate change. In addition, women's responsibilities in communities, as managers of natural resources and households, position them to contribute to better livelihood options that provide alternative solutions to strengthen resilience.
- Following a disaster, capitalising on these changing roles can help break down barriers to women's empowerment and improve women's productivity in sectors that are often critical to economic recovery and sustainable development. In fragile contexts, activities to build resilience can be a key opportunity to consolidate economic and social improvements and to support women to take on new roles in natural resource management, either by starting alternative activities to generate income or by integrating into traditionally maledominated productive sectors.

• In the context of the empowerment of women as agents of change, it is important to strengthen mechanisms for the protection of women human rights defenders, and especially those who advocate for access to territory and natural resources, as well as those who stand up to projects that generate environmental deterioration and social exclusion.

Message 3: Highlight the importance of the participation of women and girls in the formulation and monitoring of public policies and regulatory frameworks, emphasising the need to increase women's equal access to property and other productive assets.

- The full and equal participation of women in accessing and managing natural resources, from small-scale agriculture to the management of water or protected areas, can increase the efficiency and scope of approaches to preserve and use biodiversity, ecosystems and their services in a sustainable way. Important measures to address existing barriers include more equitable access to resources (such as land and water) and services (technology, technical assistance and credit)²⁴.
- Another important aspect for the advancement of women is to support opportunities for women to take non-traditional roles related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to access jobs in green sectors related to new technologies (such as renewable energy, biotrade, etc.)²⁵.

Examples of policies/strategies/ programmes with an inter-institutional/integral approach, relevant for the region

Peru: Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change in Peru (PAGCC-Peru), Supreme Decree N° 012-2016-MINAM²⁶

Decision 18/CP.20 'Lima Work Programme on Gender', adopted at the Twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, decides to improve the implementation of decisions 36/CP.7, 1/CP.16 y 23/CP.18 by inviting Parties to promote gender balance, to promote consideration of gender issues in the development and implementation of climate policies and to establish gendersensitive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention.

In this framework, Peru's 'Gender and Climate Change Actions Plan' includes as one of its specific objectives the incorporation of gender equality in polices and management instruments to address the adverse effects and opportunities of climate change, as well as one related to incorporating the gender approach in the design and implementation of adaption and mitigation projects and programmes to climate change. The plan has a gender, intercultural and sustainable development approach, with eight priority areas: forests, water resources, energy, food security, solid waste, health, education and disaster risk management, in which active participation of women is considered key. UNDP and UNEP have supported the formulation of this plan, among other international actors, through the Poverty and Environment Initiative.

Honduras: inclusion of the gender equality approach in the national disaster risk management plan

In the framework of a regional alliance, UN Women and UNISDR worked together with the responsible national institutions

in Honduras to ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective of the Sendai Framework in the national disaster risk management plan. The Honduras process was a pilot for the Central American region. It had the technical and political endorsement of the Centre for Coordination for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), in support of the Permanent Contingency Committee (COPECO) of Honduras for the consolidation and harmonisation of its National Plan for the Integral Management of Risks with the indicators of the Sendai Framework. The joint work included: 1) UN Women provided technical assistance for the elaboration of the National Risk Management Plan, ensuring the active participation of women's organisations involved in risk management and climate change; 2) training workshops on gender equality, risk management and climate change were organised for COPECO and for women in the neighborhoods of Tegucigalpa, benefiting a total of 48 people; and 3) UN Women provided technical assistance to ensure the inclusion of data disaggregated by sex and age in the process of adapting the Sendai indicators to the context of Honduras. Indicators and targets that measure women's empowerment were also included in the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. This phase included support for the methodological design of sectoral (nine sectors), territorial and virtual consultations. since the construction of the results frameworks of the National Risk Management Plan is carried out in a participatory way. From the technical assistance work in Honduras, a regional guide and toolkit were generated to help replicate the experience, where relevant, in other countries of the region.

Regional Interagency Initiative on Women's Access to Land and Other Productive Assets

This initiative was generated within the regional interagency group for gender equality

and the empowerment of women and girls in 2015. The objectives of the initiative are: 1) Raise awareness and gather up-to-date data about various aspects relating to women's access to land, as well as control over land in the region, in particular relating to women in movement such as migrants and displaced persons; 2) Promote rural women in the region's right to land and women's rights in general through the different state integration mechanisms in the region and within the agenda of the United Nations System; 3) Promote law, policy and national framework reforms related to the management and tenure of the land, which aims to eliminate discriminations and barriers faced by women so they may fully enjoy their rights; 4) Support the access of rural women to resources essential their economic empowerment technology, credit, intermediary financial services, among others); and 5) Ensure that the **knowledge** and successful experience generated through this interagency initiative are disseminated and communicated at the regional level. This initiative is being coordinated by UN Women and FAO with the participation of UNDP, IOM and WFP. As one of the products, a **roadmap** for Women's Access to Land was developed: Economic Autonomy, Equality of Rights and Food Security in Central America, which is the result of a technical consultation held in Guatemala in November between representatives of different countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Colombia. This dialogue of construction and articulation was enriched with the contributions of representatives of different sectors (representatives of SIECA, SICA, COMMCA and SE-CAC, government, and representatives of civil society) and allowed for an exchange of good practices, initiatives, advances and actions that contribute to the economic empowerment of rural and indigenous women and women farmers. The five agencies are supporting the implementation of the roadmap and joint advocacy efforts continue throughout the region.

- 1 UNEP-UNU, 2014.
- 2 UNEP, 2016. Global Environmental Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 3 CEPAL, 2014
- 4 Land For Us, RECMURIC, 2015
- 5 According to the study by Katz and Chamorro (2003), based on rural surveys conducted in Honduras and Nicaragua, it was found that by keeping household characteristics, household and female income constant, and the amount of maize production, the amount of land that the woman owned was positively and significantly related to the proportion of household expenditures dedicated to the purchase of food. According to the average evaluated, households where women have land rights spend 5.5% more food in Nicaragua and 2.5% more in Honduras than households without women's rights to land ownership.
- 6 Rights of use, control and transfer, 'beams of rights' (FAO, 2003)
- 7 The Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Governance recognises women's land tenure rights (paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5).
- 8 This information can be expanded in Deere (2013), in the study for six countries, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay, which states that in relation to the distribution of land owners (having as its universe all those who own a plot, either individually or in co-ownership with another person), the percentage of female owners is higher in Mexico (32.2%) and Paraguay (29.7%), and lower in Central American countries (Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua).
- 9 Source: Oxfam International. Unearthed: land, power and inequality in Latin America, 2016 https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/ file_attachments/bp-land-power-inequality-latinamerica-301116-en.pdf
- 10 Source: FAO, 2015. http://www.un.org/spanish/News/story.asp?NewsID=33015#.VrO3ltLhBdg
- 11 Proportion above 50% in Brazil (59.1%), Colombia (77.8%), Costa Rica (57.8%), Ecuador (79%), Nicaragua (55.4%) and Panama (76.4%) (ECLAC, 2013, Indigenous Women in Latin America).

- 12 Declaration of the VII Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas 2015
- 13 A 2012 study of human rights defenders in the Mesoamerican region, points out that among the defenders who have suffered the most attacks are those who defend land, territory and natural resources by 24%, followed in percentage by those who defend a life free of violence and those that focus their claims on their own right to have rights, with 23% and 15%, respectively. Rapporteurship VII Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas (2015)
- 14 Including the sub-sectors of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture (according to the terminology used by FAO and UNISDR)
- 15 CEPALSTAT, 2014
- 16 http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/ items/9619.php; http://web.unep.org/gender/sites/ unep.org.gender/files/documents/Gender%20and%20 environment%20outlook_opt.pdf
- 17 Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture: Gender, Agriculture and Climate Change: State and Perspectives from the Institutions in Latin America, 2016.
- 18 Eric Neumayer & Thomas Plümper (2007) The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981–2002, Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 97:3, 551-566, DOI: 10.1111/ j.1467-8306.2007.00563.x
- 19 UNICEF (2015), Unless we act now. The impact of climate change on children. Available at: https://www. unicef.org/publications/files/Unless_we_act_now_The_ impact of climate change on children.pdf
- 20 2017-2021 United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean (MSDF)
- 21 Indigenous women in Latin America: demographic and social dynamics within the framework of human rights. Observatories on Gender Equality in Latin America. Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)- Department of Population and Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC (2013)
- 22 IOM data, 2014
- 23 Nationality, country or place of habitual residence.
- 24 Source: https://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2017/ sp-2017--08-iwd-en.pdf

- 25 Source: https://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2017/sp-2017-03-08-iwd-en.pdf
- 26 Source: http://www.minam.gob.pe/consultaspublicas/ wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2015/12/Plan-de-Acci%C3%B3n-en-G%C3%A9nero-y-Cambio-Clim%C3%A1tico-del-Per%C3%BA-PAGCC-Per%C3%BA.pdf







Gender gaps

The region depends heavily on its natural resources.

Agricultural activities account for 16% of the region's employment.

Amplifies gender inequalities.

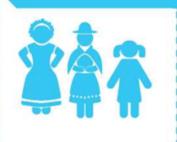
Amplifies the like of falling back into poverty and prevents their too poverty and prevents the prevents t

Discrimination against women

Discrimination against women in the allocation of irrigated land.

The women in charge of an agricultural operation go from 8.0% in Belize and Guatemala to no more than 30% in Chile. Jamaica and Saint Lucia Women represent less than 12% of the population who benefit from agricultural reform processes.

More women and girls die because of natural hazards.



Like in the other regions, more women and girls die because of natural hazards. The numbers may change from one country to the other. For example, during the 2004 tsunami in Asia, more than 70% of the deceased were women.

In case of extreme climatic events, boys and girls are the ones who suffer the most (malnutrition, stomach, respiratory and vector transmitted diseases), especially those living in poverty.

Islands risks

The population of the small islands, the developing states of the Caribbean, resides in one of the most hazard-prone regions in the world.

Caribbean: Changes in annual hurricane frequency and intensity could result in additional annual losses of USD \$446 million by 2080.

The right and access to land/territory is a central theme in the political agenda of rural, indigenous and peasant women's organisations.

Boys and girls are more vulnerable and are the ones who suffer the most after a disaster, especially those living in poverty.



The transmission of inequality, discrimination and privation of rights to the next generations creates obstacles for their present and future empowerment.

Generate evidence and statistics disaggregated by sex, age, gender, ethnicity, disability and origin, to formulate public policies of sustainable development that do not leave anyone behind.

Highlight the importance of the participation of women and girls in the formulation and monitoring of public policies and regulatory frameworks, emphasising the need to increase women's equal access to property and other productive assets.

Recommendations

Promote women and girls as agents who can strengthen resilience to risks of disasters and climate change, including mitigation and response to disasters, as well as adaption to climate change.





Key data on gender gaps

One of the characteristics of the 2030 Agenda is its complexity, covering 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 interrelated targets, and aiming to make human rights a reality for all people and to achieve gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls. The means of implementation described in the 17 SDGs are essential for transforming the commitments of the 2030 Agenda into actual results. Financing, technology, capacities, partnerships data are the main tools for achieving this. Additionally. depends success existence of a stable world economy and the opportunity for each country to implement policy choices that seek to ensure all the goals. The Sustainable Development Knowledge **Platform** translates the renewed commitment of the United Nations System to continue facilitating new partnerships, building on a long history of creation and expansion of global partnerships with a variety of actors. The 2030 Agenda represents a unique opportunity to deepen existing partnerships and create new ones that include and benefit the women and girls who face the greatest obstacles to their social, economic and political inclusion.

There are multiple synergies between the means of implementation of SDG 17 and the '4 Ps' of Prosperity, Planet, People and Peace, and they have been analysed in the other notes contained in this document, especially in terms of normative and institutional coherence, capacity building and technology. In addition to the data and messages included in the other four notes, this note will focus on three means of implementation: 1) Financing; 2) Data; and 3) Partnerships.

By analysing these three means of implementation from a gender equality perspective in the region, a series of challenges can be identified.

1. Financing

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was agreed in July 2015 as part of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, reiterates states' commitment to substantive equality. In paragraph 6, member states¹ 'reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realisation of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.'

While governments increasingly use genderresponsive budgeting to direct funds to programmes that benefit women, these exercises have revealed huge funding gaps in what women need—up to 90 per cent. Only five per cent of foreign aid funds had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013. Commitments in this area, as a share of total bilateral aid to economic and productive sectors, have remained flat since 2007/2008.²

As part of the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries reported in 2016 that they possess mechanisms for monitoring the allocation of resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women – this is four more countries than in 2015. Nevertheless, of these 11 countries, only five state that they systematically monitor the allocation of resources dedicated to gender equality, and six report that the information available publicly. Furthermore, the proportion of resources dedicated to policies and programmes for gender equality and the empowerment of women remains low in the region. There are many challenges affecting coordination between bodies responsible for public policies. When budgets are drawn up, there is no coherence between gender equality plans, and except in a few cases, the presence of gender-related policies in budget lines in each country is very limited or does not exist.

The insufficient allocations of funds for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is also a feature of **humanitarian financing**. In 2014, 12% of the United Nations crisis response funds were assigned to programmes that considered the fact that women and girls have different needs from men and boys. Also in 2014 only 1.0% of all financing in fragile states went to women's groups or women's ministries³. Furthermore, a 2015 review of the IASC's 2008 Policy Statement on General Equality found that the IASC was inconsistent in ensuring that gender equality and questions of women's empowerment were addressed in the context of humanitarian action. There was also a lack of basic tools such as disaggregated data by sex and age and a gender analysis, which restricted monitoring, the presentation of reports and accountability. This situation exists despite evidence that when women are significantly involved and their needs are directly considered, humanitarian action is more efficient and effective, the transition to recovery is faster and the community's resilience is stronger.

2. Disaggregated data and gender statistics

The goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and combine the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Of all the SDG indicators, 110⁴ must be disaggregated by sex, while 46⁵ are relevant for gender equality (14 of which belong to SDG 5). This reality represents a significant challenge for countries in the region and requires sustained investment in the generation and analysis of new data.

It is important to recognise that the region starts off with a solid base. According to the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicator, Latin American and the Caribbean scores better than the other developing regions, and in 2016 obtained an average score of 78.6. The indicator is based on three categories (methodology, source data and periodicity) and 25 individual indicators⁶. The World Bank scores provide a holistic view of the differences that exist in the region in order to detect which countries have the strongest or weakest statistical capacities. The score given to the region in 2016 is a slight decrease compared with the 2015 score (79.1) but confirms an improvement over the average score for 2005 (74.8). The index represents an internationally comparable result and is produced regularly, which is very useful. Unfortunately, the indicator does not cover gender statistics as a **separate category,** and therefore even if some of these scores can also indicate an increase in the capacity to produce gender-based data, the indicator does not make it possible to know this with certainty.

A survey conducted in countries in the region on capacities regarding gender statistics in 2016⁷ revealed the institutional disparity between national statistical institutes and their ability to monitor gender-related themes. Of the 12 countries that replied to the survey, only five conducted questionnaires on gender-based violence, six on the use of time, and two specifically on women's themes. These surveys were also carried out with different scopes and periodicities in each country. The major challenges encountered relating to data include: the lack of resources to invest in gender statistics and extract data regularly, and the need for technical assistance, training and the mainstreaming of gender statistics in various instruments.

3. Partnerships

In order for this universal sustainable development agenda to be effective, interinstitutional partnerships are required within states, between states, and between governments, the private sector and civil society. Strong inter-institutional partnerships contribute to a more inclusive society, creating further opportunities to deepen gender equality and social justice and achieve sustainable development for all.

The **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, in paragraph 10, states that 'Multi-stakeholder partnerships and the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, philanthropy and foundations, academia, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of governments and support the achievement of the sustainable development goals, in particular in developing countries.'

Various theoretical studies⁸ show that the level of influence of networks and partnerships depends on a series of variables that range from the type of information/knowledge held to the way in which this information/knowledge is distributed, the periodicity of exchanges within a network or partnership and its structure, among other things. The various network theories make it possible to better understand the diversity and complexity of partnerships, how they can achieve social change and the importance of having a wide diversity of structures.

While recognising efforts made by states, inter-governmental organisations, the United Nations System, academia, the private sector and civil society, many more partnerships are required to ensure the inclusion of all women and girls in public policies to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable human development at a global, regional, national and local level.

3.1 Inter-institutional partnerships within states

The region has achieved important normative progress. Governments in LAC have ratified international and regional conventions on human rights for women and girls, and in favour of gender equality and sustainable development. However, a greater commitment by states is required so that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls becomes a priority in national development plans, for it to be mainstreamed in sectoral policies and for sufficient resources to be allocated, both nationally and locally (e.g. at a municipal level). Similarly, progress is needed in approving and enacting legislation and implementing policies to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels.

Thus, coordination between actors within each country and between the various levels is key to achieving the SDGs. At a country level, national governments are the key agencies although there are multiple actors involved at a national level (Ministries of Planning and Finance, sectoral ministries, national women's mechanisms, executive powers, legislative powers, statistical institutes, etc.), and of course civil society, which plays an important role, predominantly in monitoring, review and accountability processes.

National women's mechanisms are the leading bodies for the coordination of government policies on gender equality mainstreaming in all areas of public policy. According to a regional study of 19 national women's mechanisms9, 63% occupy a high ranking in the state hierarchy, 11% occupy a mid-range ranking and 26% occupy a low ranking.

The limitations or challenges identified¹⁰ that need to be overcome so that these public policy instruments have a greater positive impact include:

- a) lack of political will at the highest level;
- b) lack of commitment and ability among civil servants:
- c) lack of budget allocations and human resources:
- d) lack of commitment by the media and the educational sector;
- e) deficiencies in the structure of the state and its institutions; and
- f) lack of institutionalisation of gender mechanisms with installed capacities.

As an example of these challenges, it can be noted that there is **insufficient participation** or an absence of national women's mechanisms in national institutional arrangements regarding the implementation and monitoring of SDGs.

It is also important to highlight the significance of connecting organisations responsible for a humanitarian response at the state level with national women's mechanisms and **national statistical institutes**, since in most cases this link does not exist. For example, the problems in protecting women and girls in situations of risk must be addressed integrally, and partnerships between different actors, including communities of displaced persons and host communities, together with the statistical visibility of all women and children, are essential for identification, response, monitoring and effective solutions in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

3.2 Partnerships between the state and civil society

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean. the women's movement has played a key role in advancing the normative agenda on GEWE in recent decades. Although there are regional spaces for consultation of civil society organisations, for example, as part of the Regional Conference on Women, the participation of civil society organisations, particularly women's and feminist groups, is not systematically considered in national arrangements for monitoring and follow-up to the SDGs. The low level of participation in processes to implement SDGs has already been a subject for debate and was recognised in July 2016 at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Although several countries have created or are in the process of creating public information platforms on SDGs (e.g. Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico), it is also necessary to have consultation and accountability mechanisms that enable structured and institutionalised dialogue between the state and civil society on progress and achievements concerning the SDGs.

It is also important to highlight the role played by other civil society actors such as universities and the private sector in advancing toward a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

Universities have an important part to play in achieving the SDGs since there is an intrinsic relationship between the 2030 Agenda and the role that universities should play as fundamental actors in society in supporting work in favour of sustainable development. This relationship must consider the ethical, responsible and social commitment that educational bodies must adopt regarding the SDGs. Examples of the role that universities can play include:

- 1) Developing studies and diagnoses of the current situation of women and/or girls at a local, national and regional level;
- 2) Hosting observatories on gender equality, in which data are investigated, collected and analysed depending on the issue at stake; and
- 3) Creating university chairs promoting the teaching, studying and distribution of **knowledge** on the promotion of substantive equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The private sector has a fundamental role in achieving the SDGs as a key source of employment. Ninety per cent of jobs in the world are in the private sector. This represents a huge potential to provide greater access to formal employment for women in the region, including in sectors in which women are under-represented such as ICT. Fewer than 2.0% of businesses in the region have a female CEO¹¹. At the same time, the importance of gender diversity is gaining ground with an increasing share of managers in the region recognising that gender diversity is one of the priority agendas for their businesses¹². If private sector companies agree to implement gender equality policies, they can have a significant positive impact on closing gender gaps in the workplace. There are various tools to progress with this Agenda. The Women's Empowerment Principles supported by the **UN Global Compact** and UN Women provide a way forward. Launched in 2010, the WEPs are a set of Principles for businesses that offer training on how to empower women in the workplace, the market and the community. In Latin America and the Caribbean, WEPs have been adopted by more than 160 companies. Another impotant initiative with the private sector is the 'Gender Equality Seal' developed in 2009 in partnership between UNDP and governments, to close gender gaps in the workplace. It is

based on certification programmes of gender management systems in public and private companies. These seek to develop profound transformations in the business practices that lead to more gender equality in the workplace. More than 1,400 companies – national, multinational and from the public sector – have been certified in ten countries in the LAC region, with four additional countries currently in the process of certification¹³.

3.3 Sub-regional and regional partnerships

The various regional women's mechanisms have played and continue to play an important role in promoting the implementation of the SDGs from a gender equality perspective. The mechanisms include the Regional Conference on Women, a subsidiary body of ECLAC, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organisation of American States; the Meeting of Ministers of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organisation of American States; the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA); the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities for Women (RMAAM) of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR); the Andean Council for High-Level Authorities for Women and Equal Opportunities (CAAAMI) of the Andean Community; and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). SICA, for example, has a Regional Policy on Gender Equality and Equity (PRIEG), the implementation of which is supported by the United Nations System.

One can also highlight the reconfiguration of regional integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past decade, specifically the emergence of the Bolivian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA, 2004), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR, 2008), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC,

2011) and the Pacific Alliance (2011). For example, UNASUR and CELAC have recently manifested their commitment to incorporate gender equality and women's rights in their agendas, despite not having specialised mechanisms dedicated to these causes.

In this context, it is important to stress the regional agreements contained in the Montevideo Strategy, the call for action by the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on the Economic Empowerment of Women, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the Special Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equality and Eradication of Violence against Women of CELAC which all contribute to operationalising the 2030 Agenda in the region.

Regional Coordinating Mechanism between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), comprising 20 entities, constitutes a key platform for regional coordination in the implementation of the SDGs, for example with regard to coordinating efforts to support national statistical institutes and/or facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices between countries in the region. The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development organised by ECLAC, in which the UNDG LAC participates, is a significant space for political dialogue, which can tackle the importance of GEWE for realising the SDGs and the various strategies contemplated by countries to achieve a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

It is also important to promote the connection between humanitarian assistance and development aid among regional actors, following in this sense one of the key commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit held in Turkey in

May 2016. The Summit also emphasised the need to improve the integration of women and girls in the humanitarian response to achieve gender equality¹⁴. Similarly, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, approved on September 19, 2016, by the United Nations General Assembly, marked a step forward in ensuring conditions of security and dignity for large waves of refugees and migrants; and in promoting shared responsibility among all humanitarian and development actors capable of contributing to regular, structured migrations and protection and development systems that include and do not leave any woman or girl behind. The Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action¹⁵ strives for the same goal, since it establishes guidelines for decent and secure labour mobility, as well as the social integration of women and girls in host societies, their empowerment and essential contribution to development.

Key messages

Financing

- 1. Advocate in parliaments to establish gendersensitive budgets and with Ministries of Finance and Planning to ensure sufficient funding for implementing public policies and plans for gender equality.
- 2. Promote public accountability regarding the allocation of resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls using global mechanisms such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.
- 3. Aid can only be effective if donors promote coordination and democratic partnerships between all actors. It is therefore necessary for both bilateral and multilateral donors to deepen their partnerships with all development actors to define a joint

strategic agenda that promotes real gender equality.

Disaggregated data and gender statistics

- 4. Increase resources allocated to national statistical institutes and work to strengthen their capacities to generate data disaggregated by sex, age, gender, ethnicity, disability and origin16, as well as gender statistics and indicators. The challenge of gathering data on indigenous, migrant, refugee, displaced, repatriated and stateless women and girls, as well as those of African descent, should be highlighted17.
- 5. Coordinate the technical assistance provided by the United Nations System to national statistical institutes, promoting the exchange of good practices and experiences between countries in the region and with those in other regions with similar contexts.

SDG monitoring and follow-up mechanisms that are participatory, inclusive and transparent

6. Ensure that states meet the necessary conditions for national women's mechanisms to exercise their leading public policy role with a gender equality perspective and influence the executive power at a national level to promote the empowerment and rights of women, including: countring with a hierarchical status at the highest level of the government cabinet; adequate mandate, functions and budget; institutional processes that enable effective inter-ministerial coordination; procedures that ensure the accountability and supervision of public policies; coordination and dialogue with civil society organisations (particularly women's and feminist groups); opportunities to impact the formulation of all public policies;

- 7. Guarantee that national women's organisations have the real ability to effectively apply and coordinate the mainstreaming of the gender equality perspective in public policies, and ensure the greater involvement and shared responsibility of all key institutional actors at all levels of government and state authorities. National women's mechanisms can thus effectively support the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the application and enactment of global and regional regulations, policies and standards on gender equality and the rights of women, including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- 8. Establish mechanisms for consultation and accountability that enable structured and institutionalised dialogue between the state and civil society on progress in achieving the SDGs: these mechanisms also make it possible to increase monitoring of possible setbacks in achievements made in consolidating the institutionality of women and gender equality.
- 9. Comply with CEDAW recommendations, particularly regarding advocacy for launching evaluations of **public policy** and equality plans, which will help with the design and decision-making of future policies, and that will contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Reinforcing regional and sub-regional partnerships

10. **Continue working to influence** governments and civil society so that institutional initiatives to design budgets with a gender perspective, produce inclusive gender statistics and on financing for

- development meet gender-sensitive criteria in all national, sectoral and decentralised tracking tools.
- 11. Support the reinforcement of technical capacities of national women's mechanisms in budget processes, the financing of gender questions and genderaware statistics.
- 12. Based on the tradition of South-South cooperation in the region, expand opportunities for the exchange of good practices and experiences between countries in the region on public policies and programmes focussed on the empowerment of women and girls, as well as budget processes, the financing of gender questions and gender-aware statistics.
- 13. **Within** regional integration bodies, inter-sectoral cooperation promote between the various thematic instruments and their corresponding regional women's mechanism in the context of regional agreements and declarations relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. For example, deepening the articulation between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the ECLAC.
- 14. Strengthen partnerships between humanitarian and development actors: this has repercussions in terms of joint planning, which must be based on a shared analysis of who are the most vulnerable persons and where they are, with a focus on gender equality and human rights, and with the participation of the women and girls affected. It also requires that the approach promoted by humanitarian actors encourages from the outset the empowerment of women and girls as agents of their own change. This will help plant the

seeds for development programmes to contribute to breaking down barriers to the empowerment of women and generating opportunities for women to earn their own income in sectors that are often essential for economic recovery and sustainable development. Reinforcing partnerships between humanitarian and development actors has repercussions in terms of financing and requires the creation of more agile mechanisms that make it possible to fund response and protection programmes focussed on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with a more flexible timeframe (beyond the first six months).

Examples of national or regional initiatives involving these partnerships are given below:

Examples of strategic partnerships to implement the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Examples of the inclusion of gender equality in SDG monitoring

Colombia

Countries have the main responsibility to monitor and evaluate progress in achieving the new objectives, for which it will be necessary to gather, produce and process quality, accessible and appropriate data. In this context, Colombia created the **High Level Inter-Institutional** Commission for the Preparation Effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable **Development Goals** in February 2015, which aims to be a formal space for monitoring and decision-making in implementing the SDGs via public policies, plans, actions and programmes. The Commission guides and coordinates competent authorities regarding the 2030 Agenda by connecting with territorial bodies,

civil society, the private sector, academia and the international community, among other interest groups, to support the process of registration, coordination and compliance in the implementation of the Goals. This Commission is hosted by the Technical Secretariat of the National Department of Planning (Departamento Administrativo Nacional, DNP) and is co-directed in terms of information, data, monitoring and evaluation by the National Administrative Department for Statistics (Departamento Nacional de Planeación, DANE). As one of the strategies to close gaps in information identified in its diagnosis, together with other requests, DANE asked for the support of the United Nations System, and in response, the **SDG Working Group** was set up **by DANE and** the United Nations System, which defined four areas of work: 1) Territorial measurement requirements; 2) New technologies and data¹⁸; 3) Promotion of partnerships; and 4) Outreach and socialisation actions.

Since it is necessary to proceed with strengthening the statistical capabilities of the National Statistical System (Sistema Estadístico Nacional, SEN) and to reinforce partnerships, it was important to create a space for dialogue with statistical experts from UN agencies to develop indicators that, in addition to being monitored, would constitute the baseline for the design and implementation of public policies. In this context, it was decided to organise an international event facilitating cooperation with UN agencies and their expertise to strengthen the statistical abilities of SEN bodies that produce information for monitoring the progress of the SDGs. The key goal of the event, which was held on March 22-24, 2017, in Bogotá was: to strengthen the capacities of the National Statistical Systems of the Andean sub-region to produce information required for the reporting of SDG global indicators and the design of public policies to achieve the goals by 2030. The event involved work sessions corresponding to the five Ps of the Agenda 2030 (Peace, Prosperity, People, Planet and Partnerships), seeking to create the statistical capacity to ensure the availability of information for SDG indicators classified as tier I and II. Various opportunities and challenges were identified for each P. In the thematic area of Peace, which is a fundamental part of the Colombian agenda, it was concluded that it was necessary to begin disaggregating data much more specifically. For example, measurements of equality and violence, with a gender focus, must be disaggregated at a territorial level and be available for various population groups. It is equally important to facilitate the reporting by citizens of violent acts and to reinforce notification systems. actions, immediate inter-institutional coordination, with support from civil society and international organisations, is crucial in avoiding the duplication of information, strengthening registers and enhancing information. The UN is thus committed to assisting the national government in defining a road map that makes it possible to close the information gap and act as a bridge in facilitating inter-institutional dialogue.

Mexico

Mexico is a global player in promoting gender statistics, via the National Statistical and Geographical Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI): together with the Philippines it co-chairs the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs); and along with Finland, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). Regionally, Mexico chairs the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), a subsidiary body of ECLAC, for 2016-2017, in addition to taking the lead on gender statistics by chairing the SCA-ECLAC Working Group on Gender Statistics since its creation in 2007¹⁹. Mexico is working to establish a Global Centre of Excellence in Gender Statistics²⁰ in partnership with UN

women and various other actors, aimed at stepping up efforts in terms of investigation, innovation, cooperation and the exchange of experiences to contribute to the effective adaptation/contextualisation, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

Progress in using gender statistics in Mexico was achieved by improving databases, information systems and platforms for monitoring progress toward the SDGs. Mexico was the first country in the world to become part of the 'Economic Dividends for Gender Equality' project (EDGE), which aims to accelerate existing efforts to generate internationally comparable indicators on the undertaking and characteristics of employment with a gender focus. Similarly, it participates in the DATA2X: Partnering for a Gender Data Revolution initiative²¹, aimed at measuring the well-being of women from a gender perspective. Mexico is the pioneer of surveys on the use of time and measurements of the economic value of unpaid work in national accounts. INEGI, the National Institute of Women (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, INMUJERES), UN Women and ECLAC developed the Gender Atlas, which seeks to gather some of the most important gender equality indicators in Mexico on an online platform where users can access maps showing demographic, social and labour-related trends in terms of the use of time, employment, poverty, decision-making and violence against women.

2. Examples of the creation of spaces for civil society and private sector involvement

In early 2015, the **Thematic Group on Gender**, Race and Ethnicity of the United Nations in **Brazil** designed its advocacy strategy as part of the International Decade for People of African Descent. One of the central priorities of this strategy is the **promotion of equity and the** empowerment of women of African descent, with an emphasis on strategic partnerships between international cooperation agencies, civil society, the government and the private sector. As part of the partnerships with civil society, in 2016 the Thematic Group supported the international exhibition on human rights violations and violence against Afro-Brazilian women. Two NGOs - Criola and Geledes – in cooperation with the Network of Afro-Brazilian Women's Organisations, compiled an analytical dossier based on newspaper reports presented in 2016 to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). The dossier was transformed into a trilingual publication (Portuguese, English and Spanish) and launched during the 13th AWID International Forum, in which more than 2,000 women from around the world participated. It was distributed during the visit of the IACHR rapporteur. In addition to the partnership formed between the Thematic Group on Gender, Race and Ethnicity and Afro-Brazilian women's CSOs, international political advocacy was only possible thanks to a new partnership with the NGO Race and Equality, based in the United States, and with AWID for the launch and presentation of the dossier. The process also resulted in cooperation between the UN and OAS to step up efforts to promote the empowerment of women of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) have been adopted by more than 160 companies. Of this total, 110 are in Brazil. Brazil has developed

an innovative partnership strategy with the private sector to promote gender equity and empower women. Since 2014, private companies - in addition to implementing internal actions to promote a favourable environment for women - have contributed to increase the visibility of the issue in Brazilian society. Alliances with marketing and media companies enabled the development of specific campaigns on the subject, with a probono contribution equivalent to more than US \$5 million. Other companies contributed to women's empowerment initiatives promoted by UN Women and other partners, such as the Brave is not Violent, Beijing + 20 and HeforShe. For example, Schneider Electric is one of the companies with the 10x10x10 impact of HeforShe and is pushing the issue in countries globally. In Brazil, it has committed itself to increasing the number of women in senior management, recruiting female electrical engineers and promoting the issue with its partners and suppliers. The WEP strategy in Brazil has benefited from the Pro Gender Equality and Race Seal, launched by the Brazilian government in 2005 with the support of UN Women and ILO. It is a qualification programme aimed at companies that promote change in organisational culture and personnel management policies. The Pro Gender Equality and Race Seal is in its sixth edition.

3. Examples of regional inter-sectoral partnerships for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

In the case of the **Regional Conference on Migration**, El Salvador assumed the Presidency Pro Témpore for 2017, agreeing to fight against the marginalisation of the most vulnerable groups in society, specifically migrant women who need international protection. **The theme adopted for 2017 by the Presidency is 'Migrant Women'.** This theme is one of the priority areas for human rights work in the

current CRM plan of action and has a special link with the theme of migration and development²². In South America, the most recent **South American Conference on Migration** (SACM), held in Asunción in November 2016, highlighted the crucial importance of incorporating the gender perspective in migration policies, guaranteeing access to **the rights of migrant women, girls and adolescents** and their families, recognising their contribution to the development of their original and host countries, promoting their independence and empowerment and combatting all discrimination or violent practices to which they are exposed²³.

Faced with the situation of violence affecting the region, countries in Central America, as part of the **Central American Integration System (SICA),** designed the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA), approved in 2011 as a way to coordinate integral efforts to support security in the region. The strategy includes a component focussed on the prevention of violence, including violence suffered by Central American women, with an emphasis on people trafficking and femicide. According to a recent world report, of the 25 countries with high and very high levels of femicide/ feminicide, four are situated in Central America. In 2013, under the leadership of the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA), the Regional Policy on Gender Equality and **Equity (PRIEG)** was launched, with the goal of enabling SICA member states to incorporate measures necessary to guarantee the full development and progress of women in Central America and the Dominican Republic in conditions of equality and equity, in political, cultural, environmental social, economic, institutional fields, both and regionally and nationally. The implementation of the PRIEG is supported by various UN agencies, including UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO and UNICEF.

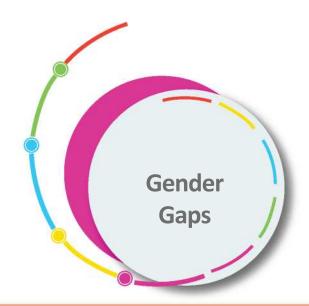
CARICOM developed a **model to measure gender-based violence,** inspired by the WHO model and replicable at a national level. As a result, the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) of CARICOM adopted this model for national surveys regarding the prevalence of violence. CARICOM's regional statistical programme, with the support of UN Women, established a **set of Gender Equality Indicators** (GEIs). All of CARICOM's national statistical institutes agreed to adopt the GEIs, which include indicators to measure gender-based violence, economic empowerment, education, health and participation in public affairs.

- 1 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/ PartnershipExchange
- 2 http://www.unwomen.org/es/news/stories/2015/4/ mobilizing-greater-global-investment-in-genderequality-and-womens-empowerment
- Women and girls: catalysing action for gender equality, World Humanitarian Summit, May 2016
- 4 UN Women (2017), Transversalización de Género en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible Agenda 2030, for publication.
- 5 See: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/ women-and-the-sdgs
- 6 Source: World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators. http://datatopics.worldbank.org/statisticalcapacity/ home.aspx
- 7 UN Women (2017), Mainstreaming Gender in the Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030, for publication
- Potential Human Rights Uses of Network Analysis and Mapping, Skye Bender-deMoll, April 28, 2008, and The Politics of Networks: Interests, Power, and Human Rights Norms, David A. Lake and Wendy Wong, Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego, May 30, 2006

- Source: UN Women, Los Mecanismos Nacionales y Regionales de las Mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe Hispano, 2016
- 10 As part of this study, questionnaires were sent to national women's mechanisms in the region and civil society organisations.
- 11 http://www.as-coa.org/articles/ weekly-chart-latin-american-women-leadership
- 12 http://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/ organization/our-insights/why-top-managementeludes-women-in-latin-america-mckinsey-globalsurvey-results
- 13 For more information on the Gender Equality Seal supported by UNDP: http://americalatinagenera.org/ newsite/index.php/es/empresas-por-la-igualdad.
- 14 See the core commitments for women and girls presented at the World Humanitarian Summit.
- 15 http://www.acnur.org/que-hace/proteccion/ declaracion-de-cartagena-sobre-los-refugiados/plande-accion-de-brasil-pab-un-ano-de-implementacion/
- 16 Nationality, country or usual place of residence.
- 17 Since inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms recognise that more than half of high-risk persons are women and girls, the lack of reliable data disaggregated by sex, origin, migration status and age on access to and violations of rights for this group of people is an undeniable barrier to their inclusion in development plans. Similarly, the necessarily limited coherence between development policies and agendas and humanitarian action means that integrating displaced persons and host communities and consequently eliminating the margnialisation of certain groups of women and girls is increasingly complicated.
- 18 As one of the tasks of this group, DANE identified a group of 55 global indicators, 29 red and 26 yellow, which could be used jointly by DANE and the UN. Based on this information, it was confirmed that agencies could offer support for 13 yellow indicators and nine red indicators. In addition, support for approximately 40 (green) indicators was offered, which DANE had not initially contemplated, despite their relevance for the processes of intensification, territorial disaggregation and distribution.
- 19 See UN Women/ECLAC/INEGI/UNWOMEN. Gender Statistics. A Strategic Alliance for Latin America and

- the Caribbean available at: http://mexico.unwomen. org/es/digiteca/publicaciones/2015/01/genderstatistics-a-strategic-partnership-for-latin-america
- 20 Secretariat for Foreign Relations. Press release. September 26, 2016. Available at: http://www.gob. mx/sre/articulos/la-canciller-claudia-ruiz-massieuparticipo-en-el-lanzamiento-de-making-every-womanand-girl-count?idiom=es
- 21 Among the projects to collect data via social networks, Data2X has worked with INEGI to develop a methodology and collect and analyse data on adolescent mental health by using negative and positive expressions on Twitter. Since depression is one of the main causes of illness globally among adolescents, and due to the lack of information available on the theme, it is hoped that this project will contribute innovatively to closing the gap in gender data in key areas of health for women and girls. http:// data2x.org/partnerships/
- 22 http://www.rree.gob.sv/index.php?option=com_ k2&view=item&id=6305:el-salvador-asumepresidencia-pro-tempore-de-la-conferencia-regionalsobre-migracion&Itemid=1770
- 23 http://csm-osumi.org/Archivos/ConfCSM/1%20 Declar%20ASUNCION%202016%20escan.pdf







Partnerships

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was agreed in July 2015 as part of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, reiterates states' commitment to substantive equality. In paragraph 6, member states 'reaffirm that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realisation of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development.'

Only 5.0% of foreign aid funds had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013

FINANCING

In 2014 only 1.0% of all financing in fragile states went to women's groups or women's ministries.

Of all the SDG indicators, 110 can be disaggregated by sex, while 46 are relevant for gender equality.

DATA
DISAGGREGATION
AND GENDER
STATISTICS

Of the 12 countries surveyed on their statistical capacities, only five conducted questionnaires on gender-based violence, six on the use of time, and two specifically on women's themes.

Participatory and inclusive SDG monitoring

National women's mechanisms (NWM) are the leading bodies for the coordination of government policies on gender equality mainstreaming in all areas of public policy.

Hierarchical level of the 19 NWM in Latin America and the Hispanic Caribbean until December 2016



31% (6) Low Rank

(Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama Uruguay and Brazil)

11% (2)
Medium Rank
(Colombia and
Ecuador)

Regional mechanisms and other regional structures for women



Regional Coordination
Mechanism
(UNDG LAC-ECLAC)

Regional Conference on Women (ECLAQ

The Montevideo Strategy (2016):

Roadmap for gender equality in LAC: identifies 74 measures and ten implementation modalities:

- 1. Normative framework
- Institutionality
- 3. Participation
- 4. Building and strengthening capacities
- 5. Funding
- 6. Communication
- 7. Technology
- 8. Cooperation
- 9. Information systems
 - Monitoring, evaluation and accountability

How to achieve key partnerships to reach the SDGS

Funding

- 1. Advocate in parliaments to establish gender-sensitive budgets.
- 2. Promote public accountability regarding the allocation of resources for gender equality.
- 3. Aid can only be effective if donors promote coordination and democratic partnerships between all actors.

Data disaggregation and gender statistics

- 4. Increase resources allocated to national statistical institutes.
- assistance provided by the United Nations System and other actors to national statistical institutes.

5. Coordinate the technical

Participatory and inclusive SDG implementation

- Ensure that states meet the necessary conditions for national women's mechanisms to exercise their functions and mandate.
- 7. Effectively coordinate the mainstreaming of the gender equality perspective in public policies.
- 8. Establish mechanisms for consultation and accountability between states and civil society on progress on SDG implementation.
- Promote partnerships with the private sector as a main source of employment and with great potential to provide greater access to formal employment for women in the region, including in sectors in which women are under-represented.

Regional Partnerships

- Continue working to influence governments and civil society in favour of genderresponsive SDG implementation.
- 11. Support the reinforcement of technical capacities of national women's mechanisms.
- 12. Expand opportunities for the exchange of good practices and experiences between countries in the region.
- 13. Promote inter-sectoral cooperation between the various thematic instruments and their corresponding regional women's mechanisms.
- 14. Strengthen partnerships between humanitarian and development actors.







































'All the objectives of sustainable development are directed towards a Planet 50 - 50 by 2030.'











International Labour Organization













Empowered lives. Resilient nations.















