

Fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Buenos Aires, 7–11 November 2022

BUENOS AIRES COMMITMENT

The member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Buenos Aires from 8 to 11 November 2022,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Optional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, in particular Nos. 100, 102, 111, 156, 169, 183, 189 and 190, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2013), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement, 2021), as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and ensure all the human rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by States in the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (2001), the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (1994), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2014), the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2021; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), United Nations Security

Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (2011), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) (2014), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the Paris Agreement (2016) and subsequent climate change agreements,

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

Bearing in mind that, at their sixty-first meeting, held in virtual format on 29 and 30 September 2021, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to “The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality” as the main theme for discussion at the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,¹

Bearing in mind also the participatory process conducted in preparation for the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which contributions from the member States of the Conference, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations, particularly feminist and women’s organizations and movements, were compiled and incorporated,

Recognizing the persistence of gaps between men and women in the labour market, wages, employment quality and access to social protection and security, as well as a social organization that assigns paid and unpaid domestic work and care work to women, together with policies and care services that are inadequate to ensure gender co-responsibility and co-responsibility between the State, the market, families, communities and individuals,

Mindful of the unprecedented harmful effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has had a negative effect on the world’s population and a disproportionately heavy impact on women, adolescents and girls, by intensifying the structural obstacles to gender equality and resulting in massive job losses, rising informality and school dropout, thereby increasing the demand for care and the overburden of care work for women, adolescents and girls, among other consequences, and at the same time, has highlighted the decisive role of paid and unpaid care work for the sustainability of life,

Concerned by the worsening economic and social and environmental situation resulting from multiple and interrelated international energy, food and financial crises, the increasing challenges posed by global climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and the high level of public debt in many countries of the region, and the implications thereof for the progress made in gender equality, the guarantee of the rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, the exercise of their autonomy, and the sustainable development of the countries of the region, agree to:

¹ LC/MDM.61/4.

1. *Welcome* the document *The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality*,² which calls for a transition towards a new development model that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet, recognizes care as forming part of the human rights that are fundamental to the well-being of the population as a whole, ensures the rights of the people who require or provide care, and raises awareness of the multiplier effects of the care economy on well-being and as a sector that can drive an inclusive, transformative recovery with equality and sustainability, and commends the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through its Division for Gender Affairs, for preparing the document;

2. *Also welcome* the document *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030: implementing the information systems pillar of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*,³ and commend the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean for their coordinated efforts to mainstream gender in national statistical systems;

3. *Reaffirm* the commitment to take all necessary and progressive measures to accelerate the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Regional Gender Agenda, strengthening gender equality institutions and architecture through the prioritization at the highest level of machineries for the advancement of women and the mainstreaming of gender at the different levels and branches of the State, by increasing the allocation of financial, technical and human resources, gender budgeting, and monitoring and accountability, with civic participation, which will foster public policies for response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a transformative and gender-equal post-pandemic recovery;

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

5. *Also recognize* that the unfair distribution of time use and the current social organization of care disproportionately affect women, in particular women living in poverty, adolescents and girls and older women, Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women deprived of liberty, women living with HIV, migrant and refugee women, as well as LGBTI+ persons, among others;

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

7. *Promote* measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and move towards a fair social organization of care, in the framework of a new development model that fosters gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

8. *Recognize* care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care based on the principles of equality, universality and social and gender responsibility, and therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by people of all sectors of society, families, communities, businesses and the State, adopting

² LC/CRM.15/3.

³ LC/CRM.15/4.

regulatory frameworks and comprehensive care policies, programmes and systems with an intersectional and intercultural perspective that respect, protect and fulfil the rights of those who receive and provide paid and unpaid care, that prevent all forms of violence and workplace and sexual harassment in formal and informal work, and that free up time for women, so that they can engage in employment, education, public and political life and the economy, and enjoy their autonomy to the full;

9. *Adopt* regulatory frameworks that ensure the right to care through the implementation of comprehensive care policies and systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective, and include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services in the territory;

10. *Design* and implement State policies that favour gender co-responsibility and make it possible to overcome harmful sexist roles, stereotypes and norms, through regulations aimed at establishing or broadening parental leave for the diverse forms of families, as well as other types of leave to care for dependent persons, including inalienable and non-transferable paternity leave;

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

12. *Consider* valuing care work in measures of economic compensation and a fair distribution of assets, in cases of dissolution of the marriage or cohabitation;

13. *Adopt* measures to promote and effectively protect the human rights of all women domestic workers, as established in Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization, and urge governments that have not yet done so to ratify and apply the Convention;

14. *Recognize* the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices, and put in place policies, services and accessible infrastructure to protect their right to provide and receive care and to self-care, considering their specific needs, including the use of mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies;

15. *Promote* the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that contribute from a gender and human rights perspective to ageing with dignity in a safe and healthy environment, and to the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons;

16. *Integrate* the gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective into national policies, initiatives and programmes on the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, recognizing the differentiated risks for and effects on women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, especially women subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence and environmental defenders;

17. *Promote* women's participation in environmental decision-making and disaster risk reduction and build the resilience and adaptive capacities of women, adolescents and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and environmental pollution in cities and rural areas;

18. *Encourage* coordinated work between national machineries for the advancement of women and other entities responsible for care policies, and between the different levels and branches of government, establishing inter-agency coordination mechanisms with sufficient technical, human, administrative and financial resources to strengthen the exchange of innovative practices and initiatives for the design of comprehensive care policies and systems from the gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspectives;

19. *Create* enabling conditions for the autonomy of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity through capacity-building, technology, humanitarian assistance, the provision of and investment in affordable, quality infrastructure and essential services, promoting, among other things, universal access to comprehensive health services, including mental health services, sexual and reproductive health, and the full exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, through access to information and comprehensive sexuality education and to safe abortion services in those cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized under national legislation, as well as access to education and comprehensive services for the prevention of gender-based violence against women, safe drinking water, safe, nutritious and sufficient food, sanitation, clean and affordable renewable energy, public transport, housing, social protection and decent work for women;

20. *Promote* the adoption and implementation of laws, policies, comprehensive and multisectoral action plans and educational awareness-raising programmes to prevent, address, punish and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity, in different areas and manifestations, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage and early unions;

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

22. *Actively support* the participation of women's and feminist organizations and movements, including those of young women, older women, Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, grassroots and rural women, migrant women, LGBTI+ persons, caregivers' and dependent persons' organizations, as well as trade unions, organizations of paid domestic workers and community care organizations and cooperatives, in the design, implementation and monitoring of care policies;

23. *Encourage* a systemic change in the approach to migration from a gender, intersectoral, intercultural and human rights perspective to highlight the contributions made to societies by migrant, displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and the elimination of the structural conditions that expose them to vulnerability in the migration cycle, including smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls;

24. *Consider* the adoption of cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit, destination and return of migrant, displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women, with special attention to women in global and regional care chains, fostering their full participation in decision-making;

25. *Encourage* and strengthen the effective protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land, territory and natural resources, and adopt measures to integrate the gender, intersectoral and intercultural perspectives into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against these defenders and to combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that human rights violations committed against them are investigated and that they have access to justice;

26. *Design*, implement and evaluate macroeconomic policies, particularly fiscal policies (income, spending and investment), from a gender equality and human rights perspective to safeguard the progress made and mobilize the maximum available resources with a view to increasing sustainable public investment over time in care policies and infrastructure, in order to guarantee universal access to affordable and quality care services;

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

28. *Implement* gender-responsive countercyclical fiscal policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on all women's lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in sectors key to the sustainability of life, including the care economy;

29. *Strengthen* regional cooperation to combat tax evasion and avoidance and illicit financial flows, and improve tax collection from the wealthiest and highest-income groups by introducing corporate income, wealth and property taxes, among others, in order to have greater resources for gender equality policies, including care policies and systems;

30. *Foster* cooperation among States and support for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to explore debt relief options for highly indebted countries and promote solutions to address debt overhang and secure the necessary resources for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

31. *Ensure* that fiscal adjustment measures or budget cuts aimed at addressing economic slowdowns are in line with the principles of human rights and non-discrimination, avoiding in particular cuts to programmes and support that would increase poverty rates among women and their burden of unpaid and care work;

32. *Promote* gender mainstreaming in national statistical systems through coordinated work between bodies that produce and use information and guaranteeing the allocation of a sufficient budget and the periodicity of measurements and the dissemination of information;

33. *Also promote* the adoption of a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective in the production and use of statistical information, which will shed light on the multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination and violence against women, adolescent girls and girls in all their diversity and throughout their lives, as well as a territorial perspective that fosters the integration of statistical and georeferenced information to identify the demand and supply of care in the territories;

34. *Encourage* the measurement of the multiplier effects of boosting the care economy in terms of labour market participation by women in their diversity, and of well-being, redistribution, economic growth and the macroeconomic impact of the care economy, including through the periodic measurement of time use, needs and demand for care in diverse territories, valuation of unpaid work in national accounts, cost estimation and calculation of the investment and return related to care policies and systems;

35. *Promote* measurements of well-being that complement gross domestic product, and which ensure that care work is made visible and valued in accounts for the economy as a whole, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

36. *Encourage* subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation programmes through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation modalities, as well as between national machineries for the advancement of women, that promote gender equality, women's autonomy, the prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence against women, including human smuggling and trafficking, particularly of women and girls, and the right to care;

37. *Reaffirm* the fundamental role played by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations and movements, and those of Indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, migrant women, young women and LGBTI+ persons, and those of women defenders of human and environmental rights, and promote exchanges and partnerships between these organizations and with the State to ensure progress towards achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda, fostering the conditions for their participation, addressing cultural or linguistic barriers and identifying and pursuing sources of financing;

38. *Express* solidarity with women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity in conflict situations around the world and call for the promotion of multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law and to maintain international peace and security, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda;

39. *Also express* solidarity with those, in particular women, adolescents and girls throughout the life cycle and in all their diversity, who have faced the adverse effects of climate change and disasters, and promote cooperation on adaptation and response to extreme weather events, disaster risk management and strengthening resilience, especially for women, adolescents and girls living in small island developing States;

40. *Acknowledge* the work done by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular advances in the measurement of femicide or femicide, total work time, child marriage and early unions, and women's participation in local government, and strengthen support for the production of gender statistics, the creation and updating of a repository for regulatory frameworks and the development of studies that will contribute to monitoring the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

41. *Welcome* the parliamentary forum held within the framework of the fifteenth session of Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and urge future host States of the Conference to promote similar initiatives that strengthen interparliamentary partnerships to advance the legislative agenda of the States in line with the Regional Gender Agenda;

42. *Also welcome* the feminist forum and the youth forum held in the framework of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

43. *Instruct* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to prepare a document on guiding principles for the design of policies, from a gender, intersectional and intercultural perspective and the perspective of territory, within the framework of human rights;

44. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for advancing in the implementation of the measures contained in the Montevideo Strategy and of the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference;

45. *Report* voluntarily at the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean on progress in the implementation of the present Commitment as part of the Regional Gender Agenda and the measures of the Montevideo Strategy;

46. *Urge* the developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, and to cooperate in capacity-building with a view to accelerating the application of the Montevideo Strategy and the commitments undertaken at this session of the Conference, taking into account the particularities of the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries;

47. *Encourage* once again the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean and of other regions, developed countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements, and thank Mexico and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for their cooperation with the Fund through the first call for grants launched by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in its capacity as administrative body;

48. *Reject* unilateral coercive measures, which are a violation of human rights, including the right to development, generate social inequalities with disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls that are worsened in times of crisis;

49. *Recognize* the Global Alliance for Care, launched in June 2021 by Mexico with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as a co-creative multi-stakeholder forum where governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, trade unions and caregivers, and national, regional and international youth and feminist networks can share experiences and good practices to make progress in the agenda for the right to care at the global level, recognizing that some countries of the region are already part of and inviting other countries of the region to join this initiative;

50. *Welcome* general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and encourage the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to ratify their commitments to progress toward achieving gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

51. *Commend* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the joint work carried out within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional forum for discussing and building the regional gender equality agenda ahead of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and request the Chair of the Conference to convey the outcomes of this subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the subsequent sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

52. *Acknowledge* the Government of Chile for its leadership as Chair of the fourteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

53. *Express* sincere thanks to the Government and people of Argentina for hosting the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and wish the country success as it assumes the chairship;

54. *Welcome* the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Conference, to begin the preparatory work for the session of the Conference to be held in 2025.