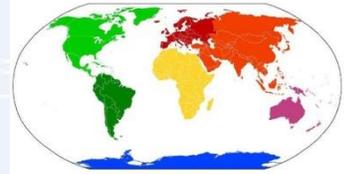




World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women



NACIONES UNIDAS

C E P A L

NEWSLETTER

Nº 2 - NOVEMBER - YEAR 2016

Dear sisters

I want to begin by thanking God for this wonderful opportunity to participate in this Conference and for the company of the Methodist sisters of Uruguay.

The 13th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Women from Uruguay. On this occasion, the Conference focused on gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable development: progress towards implementation. The Conference discussed the challenges of the Regional Gender Agenda in the context of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Objectives.

XIII Regional Conference on Women Opens with Strong Condemnation of Gender Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean



The President of Uruguay, Tabaré Vázquez, the Minister of Social Development, Marina Arismendi, and ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, led the opening session of the inter-governmental conference being held through Friday, October 28 in Montevideo.

Uruguayan authorities and representatives of international organizations present today for the opening of the [XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) strongly condemned violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Conference, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Uruguayan government, is taking place Oct. 25-28 in Montevideo.

The opening session was attended by Tabaré Vázquez, Uruguay's President; Marina Arismendi, the Minister of Social Development, who spoke on behalf of the government; Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's Executive Secretary; Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women; Mariella Mazzotti, Director of Uruguay's National Institute for Women; Janet Camilo, the Dominican Republic's Minister of Women's Affairs; María Cristina Perceval, UNICEF's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean; and María Nieves Rico, Director of ECLAC's Gender Affairs Division.

Minister Marina Arismendi welcomed the delegations participating in the conference on behalf of Uruguay, and highlighted that nearly 40 years have passed since the first Conference on Women was held in Havana in 1977. "We need countries free of gender violence, free of femicide, free of women's deaths at the hands of their spouses," she said during her speech. "There is no sustainable development of humanity if we don't have gender equality, and ensure that no one is left behind," she added.

ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, agreed that "we must put a definitive end to the gender violence that we have witnessed in horror in our countries in recent days. Reality today batters us with scandalous figures of sexist violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, where, on average, 12 women die daily just because they are women. We don't want to lose even one more woman! It is imperative that we put an end to violence against women!" she stressed.

During her speech, Bárcena addressed the inequalities that women face to exercise not only physical, but also economic and political autonomy. "Today on our continent, poverty still has the face of a woman. For every 100 men in this condition, there are 118 women," she said, adding that "one third of Latin American women (29%) do not manage to generate their own income and nearly half have no ties to the labor market."

"To these figures we must add the low level of participation by women in the political arena," given that their presence does not surpass 30% in decision-making posts in branches of government, she observed.

Babatunde Osotimehin, from UNFPA, recalled that all Latin American and Caribbean countries have adopted the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Belém do Pará Convention. "We

have a facilitating environment; let's take advantage of it," said the senior UN official, who warned during her speech of the high adolescent fertility rate in the region. "Girls and adolescents should have access to sexual and reproductive health," he asserted.

Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, underscored that "this is the first meeting of the Regional Conference on Women since the approval of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Regional Conferences have played a key role in emphasizing the need for gender equality as a prerequisite for development and justice." "It is time to firmly uphold the achievements and progress made by women and continue being a progressive global force to irreversibly transform gender relations," added Puri.

After the opening session and special presentations by representatives of UNFPA and UN Women, Alicia Bárcena presented the main conclusions from the document *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*, prepared by ECLAC as a contribution to the conference. She took comments from Uruguayan Foreign Relations Minister Rodolfo Nin Novoa.

The Foreign Minister gave an overview of some of the progress made in his country on matters of gender equality, such as the National Integrated Health System. With regard to the expected outcome of the conference, Nin Novoa stressed the potential contribution of the *Montevideo Strategy* being discussed by countries. It could be a "technical and political instrument" for implementing commitments by the countries of the region, he said.

Alicia Bárcena concluded by saying that "today we call upon governments and civil society to join forces, to not let their guard down and to avoid setbacks, because even though important progress has been made, there is still a long road ahead to achieving equality." "Without gender equality, sustainable development is neither development nor is it sustainable," she remarked.

The XIII Regional Conference on Women is being attended by delegates from 36 ECLAC Member States and two associate members, in addition to officials from 14 agencies of the UN system and representatives from over 200 civil society organizations and gender affairs specialists.

This Conference on Women is organized by ECLAC and the Uruguayan government, through its Foreign Relations Ministry and the National Institute for Women. It will include a series of [thematic panels](#), [roundtables](#) and [side events](#).

Topics presented:

1. Presentation of the document *Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda*
2. Election of Presiding Officers, adoption of the agenda and reading of the civil society declaration

3. High-level panel: Gender equality at the centre of sustainable development
4. Panel 1. Mainstreaming and affirmative action: tools for gender equality
5. Panel 2. Giving and receiving care under equal conditions: bringing the sexual division of labour into question
6. Panel 3. Physical autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights
7. Panel 4. Work: rights and autonomy
8. Panel 5 The quality of democracy and women's participation in decision-making
9. Panel 6. The right to live free from violence
10. Round table Equality and sustainable development: the future agenda for women's rights
11. Round table: Equality and sustainable development: the future agenda for women's rights
12. Consideration and adoption of the Montevideo Strategy. Closing session.

**RESOLUTION 6(XIII) ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT ITS THIRTEENTH SESSION**

The representatives of the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Montevideo from 25 to 28 October 2016,

Bearing in mind the obligations assumed by States parties upon ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000) and two of its Protocols (the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air), the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(2006), the conventions of the International Labour Organization, in particular Nos. 100, 111, 156, 169, 183 and 189, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), 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), and other relevant treaties, covenants and conventions, which establish an international legal framework to protect, respect and guarantee all the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, and to achieve gender equality and depatriarchalization,

Reaffirming the commitment of States to 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 adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), the International Conferences on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2001; Doha, 2008; and Addis Ababa, 2015), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the outcomes of their review processes, as well as resolution 71/1 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants",

Confirming the continued relevance of the commitments undertaken by the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean 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) and the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013),

Concerned about the dangers that slowing economies, weaknesses in democracies and discriminatory and violent patriarchal practices, discourses and cultural patterns based in the culture of privilege pose to the progress made in the areas of gender equality, the guarantee of women's rights and the full exercise of their autonomy, and to the sustainable development of the countries of the region,

Bearing in mind that the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, at their fifty-third meeting, held in Santiago from 26 to 28 January 2016, agreed to design a strategy for the implementation of commitments already made by Governments in the regional gender agenda and in keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015,

Considering that the methodology for devising the draft strategy was shared with and approved by governments at the three subregional meetings held preparatory to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that the subregional meeting with Mexico and the Central American and Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries was held in Mexico City on 2 and 3 June 2016, that the meeting with South American countries was held in Santiago on 4 and 5 July 2016, and that the meeting with English-speaking and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries was held in Port of Spain on 26 and 27 July 2016,

Bearing in mind the extensive consultation process, during which the contributions of the States members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and United Nations system bodies were compiled and incorporated into the draft strategy,

Bearing in mind also the contributions of civil society, in particular those of women's and feminist organizations and movements, to the Conference and to the preparation of the draft strategy through their active participation in the three aforementioned subregional meetings, in the meeting of experts preparatory to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America of the Caribbean, held in Santiago on 23 and 24 August 2016, and in the Conference itself,

1. Welcome the progress made since the adoption of the Santo Domingo Consensus at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the progress in relation to the agreements adopted by other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, such as Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. Establish that the regional gender agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean is based on the commitments undertaken by the Governments of the region enshrined 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) and the Santo Domingo Consensus (2013), that it is evolving and open to future, intergovernmentally agreed contributions, and that it dovetails with the Montevideo Consensus of Population and Development (2013);

3. Reaffirm the commitment to mainstream the perspective of gender and women's full autonomy and rights, as enshrined in all the Sustainable Development Goals, their targets, indicators and means of implementation, and to ensure that the regional gender agenda contributes to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the region;

4. Welcome the document Equality and women's autonomy in the sustainable development agenda,¹ and commend the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean upon its preparation;

5. Adopt the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, hereinafter "Montevideo Strategy", as a political and technical instrument designed to

guide the full and effective implementation of the regional gender agenda and its mainstreaming into sustainable development plans by 2030

6. Agree to adapt the Montevideo Strategy to national priorities, gender equality and rights plans, sustainable development plans and policies, and budgets;

7. Agree also to report, on a voluntary basis, at one of the two annual meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, on progress made in the adaptation and application of the Montevideo Strategy and its contribution to the full and effective implementation of the regional gender agenda;

8. Encourage countries to step up efforts to promote awareness of the regional gender agenda and the Montevideo Strategy and to take effective, concrete measures, in keeping with national priorities and ensuring consultation and cooperation with civil society;

9. Recognize mechanisms for participation and organization of women's and feminist organizations and urge countries to establish or strengthen effective, institutionalized and permanent mechanisms for citizen participation that are representative of the diversity of civil society organizations, in order to ensure their contribution to the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of public policies on gender equality and women's rights, especially macroeconomic, productive and sustainable development policies, at the regional, national, subnational and local levels;

10. Reaffirm the will to work, through joint efforts between countries, on the creation of a regional fund in support of women's and feminist organizations and movements, in the framework of the Montevideo Strategy and in coordination with machineries for the advancement of women;

11. Express appreciation for the contributions made by women's and feminist movements to the establishment of the regional fund and renew the mandate of the open-ended working group created at the fifth-third meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference to progress towards the establishment of the fund;

12. Call upon developed countries, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant stakeholders to contribute financial resources, undertake transfers of technology and knowledge, and cooperate in building capacity with a view to facilitating the implementation of the regional gender agenda, taking into account the specific features of landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries, highly indebted and vulnerable Caribbean countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict, post-conflict countries and those affected by unilateral measures contrary to international law;

13. Urge countries to strengthen the gender perspective in national planning and budgets and to build their technical skills and capacities for implementing, monitoring and providing accountability in relation to the regional gender agenda, with particular emphasis on designing and carrying out training strategies on the gender equality perspective in public policies, covering the various issues, territorial levels and course modalities;

14. Reaffirm the commitment to afford machineries for the advancement of women the highest level in the institutional hierarchy, and to strengthen them by providing sufficient, earmarked technical, human, political, administrative and financial resources to enable them to fulfil their role as the governing and managing bodies of policies on gender equality and women's rights and autonomy and ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the State structure;

15. Reiterate the call to strengthen the link between machineries for the advancement of women and national statistical offices, in the framework of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to produce, systematize and use official national disaggregated data in the indicators for follow up to international commitments, especially the Sustainable Development Goals, and to promote and support the creation of national observatories on gender equality;

16. Recognize the contributions and call for the strengthening of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, and for the

required efforts to be made to improve data sources and build national statistical capacity, including through technical assistance;

17. Agree to report, through the Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and with the support of the secretariat, to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development regarding progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy from a perspective of gender and women's full autonomy and rights;

18. Agree also to report on progress in the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy at all the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

19. Urge the countries of the region to mobilize domestic and international financial resources to implement the Montevideo Strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. Thank the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Division for Gender Affairs for preparing the corresponding documentation;

21. Thank also the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for hosting the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;

22. Express particular gratitude to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for its contributions and support provided to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference;

23. Thank the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization and the Inter-American Development Bank for the contributions and support provided to the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference;

24. Thank also civil society organizations, in particular women's and feminist organizations and movements, for their participation in the discussions on the Montevideo Strategy, for their attendance at the thirteenth session of the



Taking advantage of my stay in Montevideo on October 24, 2016 the Women of the Methodist Federation of Uruguay met me in the framework of my work as ECLAC



Representative.

Ivonne Pereira Díaz
Representante Federación Mundial en CEPAL ante las Naciones Unidas
para América Latina y el Caribe
United Nations Representative ECLOC Latin America