



**XII**   
Regional Conference  
**ON WOMEN**  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

PLE.1/EN

18 October 2013

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Santo Domingo, 15-18 October 2013

**SANTO DOMINGO CONSENSUS**

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

*Reaffirming:*

1. The commitments States have assumed under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo, 2000) and the protocols thereto, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
2. The agreed conclusions of the fifty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
3. The valuable contribution to policies and programmes made by the regional consensus adopted at previous sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the continued relevance of the Brasilia Consensus adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010;
4. The commitments undertaken at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in April 2013 with the support of the second phase of the Alliance for the Information Society programme (@LIS2);
5. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development adopted at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, and the commitment to other instruments and resolutions on gender equality, empowerment and the advancement of women;

*Considering:*

6. The opportunity represented by the debate that is taking place in different forums, in particular on the new development agenda beyond 2015, the search for new forms and models of development, and the strengthening of democracy and increasing acceptance of equality as an imperative, which offers new opportunities for the application of gender policies;
7. That the digital economy, innovation projects and access to and use of information and communications technologies present an array of opportunities and challenges in connection with achieving women's economic, physical and political autonomy, which compel the use of these tools to drive the processes of building equality and prevent these technologies from opening a gap that deepens the inequalities in the information and knowledge society, especially for rural, indigenous, Afro-descendent, displaced and migrant women, young women, older women, women living with HIV/AIDS and women with disabilities;

8. That women's autonomy is essential to guaranteeing the exercise of their human rights in a context of full equality and, in particular, that control over their own bodies, comprehensive health and the right to live a life free from violence (physical autonomy), access to land and the ability to generate their own income and resources (economic autonomy) and full participation in decisions that affect their lives and their community (autonomy in decision-making) constitute three mutually supportive pillars that are fundamental to achieving greater gender equality and promoting women's access to information and communications technologies;
9. That the freedom, capacity and right to take informed decisions empower women to develop their potential and participate fully in the economic and social spheres;
10. That a secular State and the implementation of participatory forms of government are guarantees for the effective exercise of human rights and the consolidation of democracy, transparency and governance;
11. The negative impact of unilateral coercive economic measures on access to new technologies by the countries targeted by such measures;
12. The impact of information and communications technologies on society and the economy;
13. The widening gap between developed and developing countries in access to information and communications technologies, and the new dimensions of the digital divide, which undermine women's autonomy and limit their full development;
14. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2012), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Cancun Agreements adopted at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun, 2010);

*Bearing in mind:*

15. That every country has the sovereign right to apply the recommendations contained herein in accordance with its national laws and development priorities and in a manner consistent with internationally recognized universal human rights;
16. The imminent deadlines for implementing the main international agendas that have helped to further the advancement of women, such as the Millennium Development Goals, the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;
17. The need to assess the implementation status of these international agendas and the progress made towards achieving the goal of real and effective gender equality and women's autonomy in the region;
18. The need to include gender equality in the development agenda beyond 2015 and to define the outlook and priorities for the future, in relation to both a stand-alone goal on equality and the mainstreaming of gender across the entire set of goals to be adopted under the new sustainable development agenda with a view to ensuring a rights-based approach to development;

19. The centrality of gender equality in the development debate, which entails taking account of both productive and reproductive work and changing the division of labour, since inequities in the sphere of reproduction have created a disproportionate burden on women and structural gender inequalities that perpetuate the cycle of poverty, marginalization and inequality;
20. That the sustainable development agenda should incorporate and reaffirm the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, in general, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, in particular, as a fundamental part of that right, recognizing gender equality as a prerequisite for its fulfilment;
21. That gender equality must be the central thread running through all action taken by the State, given that it is a key factor in consolidating democracy and moving towards a more participatory and inclusive development model;
22. States' responsibility to focus efforts and make the investments needed to ensure that information and communications technologies are accessible and contribute to enhancing women's initiatives and their economic, political and physical empowerment, preventing the creation of new gaps owing to the living conditions or cultural diversity in the region;
23. That to seize the opportunities and meet the challenges offered by information and communications technologies for the advancement of women, it is necessary to overcome existing constraints and gender gaps in relation to education, health, the exercise of power, the economy and sociocultural spheres;
24. The need to facilitate access to information and communications technologies by women of all ages such that they can fully exercise their right to freedom of expression through networking, advocacy and exchange of information, educational activities and the specialized use of these technologies in economic activities;
25. That information and communications technologies have transformed information into one of the most valued and sought-after market resources;
26. That public policies must be adopted and implemented to tackle racism and ethnocentrism and their harmful consequences;
27. That rural women's access to land, natural resources and public resources in support of production —such as technical and technological assistance, education and credit— is still subject to various constraints;
28. The need to support the sustainability of women's and feminist organizations and movements, recognizing them as essential agents in transforming and mobilizing society and in informing, educating and communicating for social, economic, political and cultural change grounded in the democratic principles of autonomy, equality of rights and women's empowerment;
29. That the justice system is important for the promotion of human rights and recognizing that justice delayed is often justice denied;

30. That the adoption of a human-rights-based approach in policies and programmes calls for the detailed planning of specific actions that can bring about real changes in all stages of women's life cycle, particularly for young women, rural women, women with disabilities, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, displaced women, migrant women, other women who live in particularly vulnerable or marginalized circumstances and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, transvestite and intersex (LGBTTI) persons;

*Agree to:*

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

31. Adopt public policies aimed at resolving the problems that affect our peoples, in particular women, and use information and communications technologies as a means of implementing those policies;
32. Work together with all stakeholders to ensure that the information and knowledge society fosters the empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes;
33. Design measures to build a new technological, scientific and digital culture for girls and women to bring them closer to and allow them to become familiar with new technologies and integrate them in their daily lives, and facilitate the strategic use of these technologies in their different spheres of development and participation, and encourage the implementation of national projects and programmes to promote and strengthen the pursuit of scientific and technological vocations by women;
34. Strengthen the mainstreaming of gender across all areas of public policy in connection with information and communications technologies, ensuring full access to these technologies and their use by women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on an equal and equitable basis for the social appropriation of knowledge, bearing in mind the associated regulations, costs and coverage issues and with respect for cultural and linguistic diversity;
35. Adopt public policies that include affirmative action to promote the lowering of barriers to access, a better grasp of the use of information and communications technologies and the local-language adaptation of applications and content related to these technologies, and that foster the engagement of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in vocational training in the sciences, including mathematics, engineering, environmental technologies and information and communications technologies, and in all areas of scientific research and knowledge production;
36. Encourage the creation of networks for communication and exchange in all spheres of science, leveraging the experience gained by women in the region, as well as public policies that incentivize the use and promotion of appropriate technologies and related legislation, and open-source software as a means of achieving the democratization of knowledge, free access and autonomy;

37. Promote improvements in women's access to decent employment, redistributing care work between the State, market and society, and between men and women, facilitating training and the use of technology, self-employment and business creation in the science and technology sector, and increase the proportion of women in areas where they are underrepresented, for example, in academia and the fields of science and technology, including information and communications technologies;
38. Ensure that the education system, at all levels and with respect to all forms of teaching, provides timely information to women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities on the benefits, applications and availability of vocational training opportunities in science and technology that could contribute to their personal, economic, social and political autonomy;
39. Promote, conduct and disseminate studies and research on women in science, including mathematics, technology and engineering, as well as science fairs and congresses, in order to showcase the skills, innovation and contributions of women, girls, adolescent girls and young women in these fields;
40. Ensure that businesswomen and female entrepreneurs, including rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, have access to marketing mechanisms and to credit for acquiring technological equipment and instruments that enable them to innovate and expand their business opportunities and their participation in development-oriented production processes and self-managed enterprises;
41. Promote gender equity and equality in strategic and high-level managerial and decision-making positions in firms and public and private institutions, including in the information and communications technologies sector;
42. Promote knowledge and analysis of risks for women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities in relation to cybersafety, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, child pornography, cyberbullying and bullying by other technological means, and define related offences and appropriate sanctions, considering their impact on the human rights of these groups, and enact corresponding legislation;
43. Promote policies that encourage the proactive participation of educators of children and adolescents, both in the home and at school, in ensuring the safe use of information and communications technologies;
44. Promote the generation, creation and dissemination of content and knowledge defined, produced and developed by women;
45. Strengthen e-government policies from a gender perspective, including through the production and dissemination of sex-disaggregated information, administrative records and statistics on government and public service administration, to promote a culture of accountability using technology tools and contribute to strengthening mechanisms of citizen participation;

46. Advocate legislative and educational measures by the State and the private sector to eradicate and punish sexist, stereotypical, discriminatory and racist content in the media and in software and electronic games, promote the use of positive images, appreciating women's contributions to society, and encourage, also at the State level and in the private sector, egalitarian relations and responsibilities between women and men in the field of science and technology;
47. Encourage legislative measures and policies, by the State and the private sector, to guarantee adequate conditions of work and health and to protect women against exploitation in these areas and especially in telemarketing and informal jobs;
48. Take policy measures to control highly toxic electronic waste which causes serious health problems and risk of death and illness with an impact on women and children from poor families and environmental damage;
49. Take measures to ensure personal data confidentiality and protection at all stages of data collection and processing, and to avoid espionage;
50. Seek ways to bring sciences and the new technologies closer to the specific situations of women, appreciating the dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age, with a view to helping to eradicate poverty in areas with the worst social exclusion, promote development and democratize education;
51. Eliminate sexism and gender stereotypes in education systems, books and teaching materials, and eradicate biases in teachers' perception of boys' and girls' performance in sciences, including mathematics and technology, broadening the training of educators for equality and promoting teaching practices free from prejudices and stereotypes;
52. Reaffirm and develop policies and plans of action to realize the commitments and targets of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), strengthening the working group on gender with the active participation of women's organizations;

## **B. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

53. Urge States to accede to and ratify the International Labour Organization conventions relating to gender equality, such as those on decent work for female and male domestic workers;
54. Recognize the value of unpaid domestic work and adopt the necessary measures, including legislative measures, and public policies that recognize the social and economic value of domestic work;
55. Define and establish instruments for the periodic measurement of the unpaid work done by women and ensure that public budgets allocate the funds required by the machineries responsible for compiling and systematizing the information for conducting national time-use surveys in order to facilitate the design of appropriate and fair public policies;
56. Urge States to establish satellite accounts for unpaid domestic work in the countries of the region;

57. Recognize care as a right and, therefore, as a responsibility that must be shared by men and women of all sectors of society, and by families, private companies and the State, and adopt measures, policies and programmes on care and on promoting the joint responsibility of women and men in family, working and social life in order to free up women's time so that they can engage in employment, studies and politics and enjoy their autonomy to the full;
58. Achieve the consolidation of public protection and social security systems with universal, comprehensive and efficient access and coverage by means of solidary, standard, participatory financing, based on the principle of solidarity and linked to a broad spectrum of public policies that guarantee well-being, quality of life and a decent retirement and enhance the full exercise of citizenship by women, including those who have devoted their lives to productive as well as reproductive work, both paid and unpaid, female domestic workers, rural women, female informal and contract workers and, above all, women directly or indirectly affected by illness, disability, unemployment, underemployment or widowhood at any stage in their life cycle;
59. Draft and promote legislative initiatives for reinforcing the empowerment of women in terms of their right to ownership of land and other natural resources, as well as their participation on an equal basis in managing these resources with respect to decision-making, access to and control of capital, access to good-quality services and producer goods, technology, markets and market information, inheritance and capital assets;
60. Prioritize and intensify initiatives aimed at women's economic empowerment at the community level through means such as business education and business incubators to improve their situation and thus reduce their vulnerability to violence;
61. Prioritize also the design and implementation of public policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty among women, on the basis of sustainable development, economic growth, technical and financial support for productive activities launched by women living in poverty, training and skills-building for employment, access to decent work and optimum use of information and communications technologies, from the perspective of equality;
62. Develop and implement active labour-market and productive employment policies to ensure decent work for all women, combating the precarious and informal conditions that affect mainly the female workforce and guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value, an egalitarian participation rate, appointment without discrimination to positions of power and decision-making and the elimination of occupational segregation, with particular attention to rural women, Afro-descendent women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and young women;
63. Promote and enforce legislation on equality in employment to eliminate discrimination relating to gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation and other types of discrimination in access to and security in the labour market, establishing mechanisms for filing complaints to bodies clearly identified and mandated for that purpose and determining sanctions for bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in the workplace;
64. Take measures to formalize employment, ensuring social protection and health, as well as to boost the economic and financial autonomy of women through access to working capital, including credit facilities, as well as technical advice and state-of-the-art technology, and foster entrepreneurship, cooperative movements and other forms of partnership, including self-managed enterprises;



65. Take measures to ensure that gender equity and equality criteria are applied in relation to the implementation of fiscal policies and that affirmative action is taken to prevent fiscal reforms from exacerbating poverty levels among women;
66. Take measures, including legislative measures, to ensure access by women on an equal basis to formal financial services such as savings, credit, insurance and transfers, without any type of barrier based on discrimination;
67. Acknowledge the increase in women's participation in teleworking, promote the establishment of specific public policies on teleworking in accordance with the conventions and other provisions of the International Labour Organization, and prevent conditions in the sector from becoming more precarious;
68. Urge the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the Division for Gender Affairs, to carry forward action to promote production development and women's economic autonomy by raising the profile of women engaged in production activities and designing and implementing an integrated, inter-agency and intersectoral approach for the support of women entrepreneurs, women producers and businesswomen within value chains;

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

69. Promote, protect and guarantee the complete fulfilment of the sexual rights and reproductive rights of women of all population groups throughout the life cycle by implementing laws, policies, rules, regulations and programmes incorporated into national and subnational budgets, insofar as physical autonomy is a fundamental dimension of women's empowerment and their participation in the information and knowledge society on an equal basis;
70. Ensure, within the framework of strengthened health systems —endowed with budgetary, monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms— universal access to expanded sexual health and reproductive health services of better quality and wider coverage, which must include information and timely, specific and comprehensive education and the provision of free contraceptives, and must be integrated into health-care services and geared particularly to women in the poorest sectors and subject to the worst forms of social exclusion, and young persons and adolescents of both sexes;
71. Coordinate action with the private sector, civil society and other types of social organization, from a gender perspective and with due regard for the life cycle and cultural relevance, to improve access to information and education and, through greater participation of individuals and the community, increase the efficacy of sexual and reproductive health services;

72. Ensure that the financial resources for HIV/AIDS prevention are allocated to specific measures grounded in scientific evidence that reflects the particular characteristics of the epidemic in each country, with special attention to geographical location, social networks and populations that are vulnerable to HIV infection, with a view to ensuring that those resources are employed as effectively as possible;
73. Ensure comprehensive care for persons affected by HIV/AIDS, in particular women, girls, adolescents, young persons, orphans and vulnerable children, migrants and people in humanitarian emergencies, detained women, indigenous populations, Afro-descendants and women with disabilities, as appropriate in the local context;
74. Implement gender-sensitive measures to guarantee access to good-quality health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, during and after disasters and in cases of emergency and for displaced persons and refugees in order to prevent mortality and morbidity, particularly among women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women and women with disabilities in these circumstances;
75. Strengthen statistical information systems in relation to the age range for determining pregnancy rates among girls and adolescent girls and include analysis of the associated factors in order to demonstrate their impact and implement measures and public policies to reduce the incidence of pregnancy in these age groups in the region;
76. Take measures to ensure that health policies encompass information and communications technologies, in order to achieve greater efficiency and quality in health services, knowledge management (including research), follow-up of medical history, referrals and counter-referrals and related information, guaranteeing confidentiality of all data;
77. Implement comprehensive, good-quality and timely sexual and reproductive health programmes and policies for adolescents and young people, including youth-friendly, sexual health and reproductive health services with a gender, human-rights-based, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, such that they can exercise, in safe conditions, the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation;
78. Ensure, in cases where abortion is legal or decriminalized in national legislation, the existence of safe, good-quality abortion services for women with unwanted and unaccepted pregnancies;
79. Ensure effective implementation and institutionalization of comprehensive education on sexuality in education systems, as a means of preventing adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality, and to prevent unwanted pregnancies in general and guarantee women and adolescent girls the full exercise of their sexual rights and reproductive rights such that they can take free, informed and responsible decisions in relation to their sexuality, sex life and sexual orientation, including the right to motherhood of women with HIV/AIDS;

#### **D. GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

80. Enforce national and local policies and adopt preventive, punitive, protection and care measures to eliminate all forms of violence and stigma against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies with an intercultural approach in order to achieve greater inclusion and equality for all women;
81. Enforce also national laws and policies to combat violence against women and girls in the media and in the use of information and communications technologies, considering the nature of these spheres and the risks they involve, and the greater vulnerability of women in all their diversity;
82. Ensure that women are not subject to violence during the provision of health services, in particular the type of violence inflicted during childbirth known as obstetric violence;
83. Create coordination forums to further the joint commitment of public and private institutions involved along the critical path towards preventing, addressing and punishing all forms of violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women and older women;
84. Adopt new strategies that guarantee effective institutional responses to bring about rapid and significant changes in the structural factors that influence violence against women and the sociocultural and symbolic norms that perpetuate it, strengthening mechanisms for prevention, prosecution, punishment and redress, and include the effective use of information and communications technologies in the protection measures afforded by the competent judicial authorities;
85. Support the development and use of information and communications technologies and social networks as resources for the empowerment of women and girls, including access to information on the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls;
86. Develop mechanisms, including legislation, and sanctions to combat the use of information and communications technologies and social networks to perpetrate violent acts against women and girls, in particular the criminal misuse of such technologies for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, child pornography and trafficking in women and girls, and new forms of violence, such as cyberbullying and intimidation and privacy violations that compromise the safety of women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;
87. Guarantee effective access to justice and free, good-quality legal aid for women who are subjected to violence, and provide training and public awareness sessions on gender issues to those authorized to dispense justice, as well as the police and other security bodies;
88. Promote the reform of legal systems and the amendment of laws which cause exclusion and harm, and ensure the removal of all systemic barriers to the effective delivery of justice;

89. Ensure that public security policies include specific measures to prevent, investigate, punish, penalize and eradicate femicide/feminicide and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls young women and older women, with the goal of securing them a life free from violence, and promote the adoption of regional protocols and the removal of legal obstacles to justice and redress;
90. Adopt the necessary measures, including legislation, to prevent, punish and eradicate all forms of trafficking and human smuggling in women, adolescent girls, young women and children, for sexual or labour exploitation or any other purpose, stepping up efforts in education, training and public awareness-raising in order to discourage the demand that fosters exploitation, offering adequate protection and care for the identified victims of trafficking, including shelter, rehabilitation and social integration services, witness protection, vocational training, legal aid, confidential medical care and repatriation or assistance with the regularization of migratory status, with the informed consent of the victim, regardless of their participation in court proceedings;
91. Promote respect for the comprehensive human rights of migrant women, regardless of their migratory status, and establish cooperation agreements between countries of origin, transit and destination in order to respond to the challenges posed by undocumented migration in the region, including access to justice, and to provide measures that guarantee migrant women's access to identity and citizenship documents in order to improve their labour situation and facilitate their social inclusion, in both the country of origin and the country of destination;
92. Integrate a focus on gender-based violence into all programmes and services relating to sexual health and reproductive health, maternal and child health, family planning and services related to women living with HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic infections and other HIV-related diseases, in order to expand the coverage of support services in institutions and enterprises, and to guarantee the right to work and to a decent life as part of a coordinated, multisectoral response;
93. Define and develop public policies to combat discrimination and foster affirmative action on the basis of an intersectional approach that includes tackling sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, homophobia and lesbophobia;
94. Advocate the creation of integrated national and regional statistical systems on violence against women, including cybercrime, so that data on this scourge can be collected, compiled and analysed, with particular emphasis on thorough, complete and timely administrative records, with a view to designing and strengthening public policies and programmes to prevent, address and punish gender-based violence;
95. Guarantee that all victims and survivors of violence against women (including the victims' children and dependants, if any) have immediate access to comprehensive care services, psychosocial and mental health support, treatment of injuries, shelter, and care following instances of rape or sexual assault, and access to emergency contraception, prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion services in cases of rape;

96. Design a model for an emergency network, based on interactions from the local level, in order to protect human life, infrastructure and the operations of security and relief services and networks, so as to contribute to the prevention of violence, the safe care and recovery of female survivors of assault, and responses to emergencies and natural or anthropogenic disasters;
97. Define policies to tackle gender vulnerability factors in addressing the risks inherent to natural and anthropogenic disasters and emergencies, and design gender-sensitive prevention and response strategies to ensure the protection of women and girls;
98. Elicit a commitment, through the creation of strategic networks, from the media and media professionals' associations, to project a positive image of women, banishing the stereotypes and the violent content that perpetuate discrimination and violence against women, girls, adolescent girls, young women, older women, indigenous women, Afro-descendent women, rural women, LGBTTI persons and women with disabilities;
99. Consolidate a proposal to eliminate structural sexist discrimination in the rural environment, ensuring economic, political and social equality between men and women, and take immediate action to fulfil the right of rural women to live a life free from violence and racism;
100. Eradicate gender violence, considering the need for an integrated approach on several fronts, ranging from education to the transformation of cultural patterns and the strengthening of women's movements, with a view to consolidating the foundations for increasing rural women's bargaining capacity in power relations;

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

101. Ensure that women have equal access to decision-making positions in all branches of government and in local governments, through legislative and electoral initiatives and measures that guarantee parity of representation in all political spheres and a commitment to strategic agendas to achieve parity in political participation and gender parity as a State policy;
102. Strengthen women's participation on an equal footing to men, adopting and applying laws that guarantee parity in decision-making forums, promoting affirmative action to include women in political parties and other democratic institutions, in the public and the private spheres, and setting up mechanisms to punish non-compliance with such laws;
103. Recognize and support machineries for the participation and organization of the feminist and women's movements;
104. Strengthen electoral observation and monitoring mechanisms with a gender perspective as instruments that ensure respect for women's rights to political representation;
105. Enact and implement legislation to prevent, punish and eradicate political and administrative violence against or harassment of women who reach decision-making positions of all levels, via electoral means or by appointment;

106. Use specific economic and technical measures to strengthen regional gender machineries for political training and education in support of women's leadership, and promote the participation of the region's women in such mechanisms, especially young, rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, and LGBTTI persons;
107. Encourage the media to commit to the objectives of equality and parity between men and women, through agreements to carry out media actions linked to equality and women's rights in all spheres, including gender parity in participation in political processes and in running for office, and which cover the various forms of women's political participation and the issues that affect them;
108. Promote, motivate and arrange arenas for debate, forums, workshops and campaigns in the media in favour of women's human rights in a culture of peace, avoiding the perpetuation of stereotypes that are detrimental to women's dignity;
109. Design and promote research on the gender perspective in the mass media;

#### **F. GENDER EQUALITY AND MECHANISMS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

110. Harmonize national regulatory frameworks, in accordance with international agreements on gender and women's human rights, with a view to enacting legislation aimed at achieving equality and to repealing discriminatory laws that stand in the way of the full exercise of women's rights;
111. Strengthen institutions advocating public policies on gender equality, such as gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment, by means of legislation and guaranteed, non-transferrable and irreducible budgets and by setting up decision-making bodies at the highest level, and build up their capacity to provide policy guidance on gender equality and women's empowerment by endowing them with the necessary human and financial resources for a cross-cutting impact on public policies and the structure of the State with a view to devising and implementing de jure and de facto strategies for promoting women's autonomy and gender equality;
112. Ensure gender mainstreaming and a focus on rights in all plans, programmes, projects and public policies, as well as the necessary coordination between State powers and social stakeholders to achieve gender equality, thus enshrining this concept as a pillar of sustainable development;
113. Adopt budgets with gender as a cross-cutting factor in the allocation of public funds and ensure that sufficient, protected funding is provided in all policy areas to fulfil all the commitments made by States to achieve the goals of equality and social and economic justice for women;
114. Strengthen, by means of training, exchanges of experiences and awareness-raising, regional and national instruments to monitor women's empowerment, particularly gender observatories, ensuring that the information and data supplied are compiled using a common methodology for the purposes of comparison and analysis of the different variables at the regional level, thus ensuring that the results obtained serve as basic input material for public policies on equality in the region;

115. Advocate an evaluation of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women using objective, effective tools and indicators which can ascertain the effect of the measures adopted and the actions carried out on the lives of women in the region;
116. Promote gender parity in regional integration mechanisms and in regional and national parliaments, and ensure the mainstreaming of equality as a cross-cutting consideration in regional policies and programmes;
117. Strengthen the effective implementation of systems for the production of statistical information for designing policies with a gender focus, affording particular attention to methods for collecting, classifying and processing sex-disaggregated national and regional data, including gender indicators in all areas, on the basis of a common methodology implemented by all the countries of the region, with a view to promoting women's empowerment and decision-making;
118. Promote the establishment, at the municipal and local level, of entities such as gender affairs bureaux or offices for the advancement of women, endowing them with sufficient human and financial resources and the specialist expertise to empower women, provide comprehensive care and prevent violence at the local level;
119. Strengthen regional gender machineries for women's empowerment with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming of gender equality and equity in the development agendas advocated as part of the processes of integration in the region;
120. Study the possibility of establishing a regional fund for gender equality and intercultural dialogue, funded by contributions from different types of donors, encouraging public-private partnerships;

## **G. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

121. Urge developed countries to fulfil their commitments on official development assistance, especially with the aim of moving forward on equality and gender equity in the region and on access to and use of information and communications technologies, respecting the self-determination of countries, and encourage those developing countries that are in a position to do so to support other countries in the region through South-South and triangular cooperation, tapping the integration processes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean;
122. Strengthen gender mainstreaming in the processes of integration aimed at socioeconomic development under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those in which major efforts are being made to include actions to promote gender equality, with the engagement of the feminist and women's movements;
123. Strengthen exchanges and technical, scientific and financial cooperation, including South-South cooperation, between countries of the region on gender equality matters, particularly in relation to best practices, with emphasis on those digital agendas and national strategies for information and communications technologies that originate in civil society organizations, are in keeping with the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and apply a transformative and innovative approach in pursuit of equality;

124. Support the inclusion of the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda;
125. Urge national gender machineries and offices for women's empowerment to participate in the next ministerial conference on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean;
126. Promote the endorsement of the Santo Domingo Consensus in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and its reflection in the follow-up processes associated with the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the preparation of the development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development objectives, in the World Summit on the Information Society and in the outcomes of major summits and conferences in general;
127. Urge the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in fulfilment of its mandate, to encourage cooperation agencies to prioritize national agendas in their cooperation efforts, taking an integrative approach and creating the necessary inter-agency coordination and strengthening national and regional machineries for the advancement of women;
128. Recognize the work carried out by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for its contribution to training and capacity-building, to the exchange and dissemination of information and experiences and to drawing attention to the status of women in the region, and support that work and reinforce it with concrete measures, particularly with sex-disaggregated economic indicators for evaluating women's progress in the economy;
129. Recognize the contribution of the women's and feminist movements in the region to deepening democracy, building gender equality, developing an institutional structure and formulating and implementing public policies for equality;
130. Thank the United Nations, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for the support shown to the delegations participating in the present meeting;
131. Thank also the Government, especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the people of the Dominican Republic for their generous hospitality and efficient organization of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
132. Welcome the offer of the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to host the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in 2016.