
SPECIAL DECLARATION 5: ON THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 25, 2017;

We ratify that gender equality and equity, and the advancement and strengthening of the participation of women are necessary conditions to ensure the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We agree that promoting their empowerment must be featured among the priorities of public policies, and that government programs with concrete actions must contribute to eradicating all forms of violence against women, adolescents and girls in the public and private spheres, including the crimes of femicide, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, as well as, all forms of discrimination against them.

We reiterate the need to mainstream and institutionalize a gender perspective that contributes to the consolidation of development in a comprehensive manner. This is also a key factor in consolidating democracy and advancing towards a more participatory and inclusive development model with real substantive equality.

We commit to promote the empowerment of women, and break down the barriers that impede economic integration, which will contribute to the achievement of the sustainable development goals set out in the 2030 Agenda, through education; universal access to quality healthcare and equal pay for equal work, ensuring social co-responsibility for unpaid care and the redistribution of domestic work; access to banking and financial services, capital and assets; access to markets; entrepreneurship in specialized sectors and the strengthening of business ties; and achieve the full insertion in the current technological revolution; and increase the active participation of women in political, economic and public life towards parity and the creation of networks in leadership roles.

We emphasize the need to promote the adoption of integral, broad and differentiated policies that consider gender perspectives, interculturality, human rights and multiculturalism, aimed at the prevention, care, punishment and eradication of all forms of gender violence against women, girls and adolescents naturalized by sociocultural

patterns and domination, which impede free access to rights and development of their physical, political and economic autonomy, in all areas, including in rural areas, as well as enhancing the role of women, in particular rural women, at all levels of development, including decision-making, which promotes the empowerment of women and the full exercise of their rights.

We agree to intensify efforts to eliminate all social barriers, approve and strengthen public policies and laws on gender equality to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels. We highlight the need to promote actions to guarantee women's access to the administration of justice, such as suitable, effective, appropriate and neutral legal resources, that ensure the preservation of their rights, in the public and private spheres.

We recognize the need to maintain gender equality and equity in the debate on development, and to move towards the elimination of structural gender inequalities that perpetuate the circle of poverty, marginalization and inequality.

We encourage Member States to develop public policies with budgets consistent with their sustainability, that provide women, especially those most vulnerable, equal access to financial services, land, its possession and control, the rights of ownership and succession, natural resources and technologies, the establishment of sustainable production strategies, social protection systems and quality services and production assets, markets and information on these, rights to inheritance in equality with men, in accordance with the national laws and contexts of each country.

We reiterate the important role of men and boys as key agents of change for achieving gender equality and empowering women, adolescents, and girls in our societies.

We reaffirm the commitment to the generation of gender statistics and disaggregated data that will allow identifying the situation of women in the region, as well as the progress and impact of public policies.

We reiterate our decision to continue working on the development of programs that involve women in environmental care, especially rural women, guaranteeing their access to natural resources, in order to generate the necessary conditions for their empowerment, the strengthening of their capacities and accessing quality services in the areas of health, care, education, and training to enhance women's development.

We express our commitment to ensure, promote and strengthen leadership and the exercise of equal, full and effective political participation by women in decision-making and with equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, through the full incorporation of women in public positions and the inclusion of their priorities in the public agenda, in order to advance on a parity representation and help eliminate political violence against them.

Aware of the responsibility of States in eliminating discrimination on the basis of gender, we agree to continue strengthening the Working Group on the Advancement of Women of CELAC, in accordance with its mandate, as well as to assume the gender strategy for implementation of CELAC FNS Plan 2025.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25, 2017.