



DECLARATION OF COMMITMENTS

IV Meeting of the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women: "The Transformative Contribution of Rural Women in the Food and Nutrition Security of CELAC: Challenges and Opportunities for the SDGs"

City of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

December 6 and 7, 2017

The Authorities, Delegates of the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), meeting on December 6 and 7, 2017, in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on the occasion of the IV Meeting of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women:

1. **We recall** that the "Special Declaration on the Promotion of Equity and Empowerment of Women in the New Post-2015 Development Agenda", adopted by the II Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in January of 2014 in Havana, established the creation of an Open-ended Working Group, responsible for identifying and promoting, in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, key strategies that contribute to guarantee the rights of rural women throughout their life cycle.
2. **We reaffirm** the commitments assumed in the different international protection and promotion instruments for the full exercise of women's rights throughout their life cycle; as well as the efforts of the international community in the creation of intergovernmental mechanisms to evaluate and monitor them, such as: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Montevideo Strategy for implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the sustainable development framework by 2030.
3. **We reiterate** the commitment of the region in various specialized meetings to continue working on food and nutritional security, sovereignty, as part of women's empowerment¹, especially of those living in rural areas, which seek to implement

¹ "Rural women" are those whose productive activity and other means of life are related to the rural. They are diverse women, whose diversity can be explored from their ethnicity as Afro-descendants and indigenous, or from their cultural identity as peasants, understanding as "peasant" those that are born, grow, produce and reproduce in the countryside throughout all his life. In the same sense, it is important to consider age differentiation in rural women (girls, adolescents, young adults and older adults). Finally, we can recognize those women who are in special



strategies that lead to the eradication of hunger and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. **We recognize** that rural women are key agents for poverty reduction and that they play a crucial role in achieving food security and nutrition, as well as in achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.
5. **We recognize**, likewise that rural women face challenges to reach the full development of their potential in their territories.
6. **We celebrate** the adoption of the Gender Strategy of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger 2025, for the V Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. January 25, 2017 and we reaffirm the commitment of the Member States with their implementation.
7. **We welcome** the progress made by the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, El Salvador, Haiti and Bolivia in the implementation of pilot plans that promote public policies on Food and Nutrition Security and Sovereignty, establishing concrete actions and budgetary measures, with the active, significant and inclusive participation of women for the empowerment and promotion of their autonomy and full compliance with their rights.

We agree:

1. To ratify the commitment to the socialization and implementation of the Gender Strategy of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger 2025 (FSN-CELAC Plan).
2. To continue promoting spaces for participatory consultation and dialogue with rural women, including those of native and indigenous groups, peasants farmers and Afro-descendants, for the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the FSN-CELAC Plan, taking into account the traditional and ancestral knowledge of our peoples, according with national legislations.

conditions of vulnerability, such as people with disabilities or victims of the armed conflict or natural disasters and effects of climate change.



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3. We agree to work on the development capabilities the development of capacity and leadership training for rural women in order to strengthen their autonomy, as well as their civil and political empowerment.
 4. We agree, to support the proposal made by the network of LACs rural women to request during the 62nd session of the UN CSW, to be held in March next year, to declare for the next 10 years from 2018, as the decade of rural women.
 5. To promote knowledge and experiences exchange and good practices on the implementation of food and nutrition security with a gender approach, through South-South cooperation, acknowledging as well the North-South cooperation and the fulfillment of the obligation of the official development aid.
 6. To carry out a self-assessment exercise on the progress and challenges in the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the FSN-CELAC Plan, taking into account the different realities and needs of the Member States of CELAC, in order to identify possible cooperation areas.
 7. To request that the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC coordinates the rapprochement with the Working Group on the Advancement of Women in the framework of the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development Meeting, to coordinate actions in the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the FSN-CELAC Plan.
 8. To require to the Coordination of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women, the elaboration of the regulation for the operation of the Advisory Council of the Working Group, according to the Gender Strategy of the FSN CELAC Plan, that will have as responsibility to develop a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the FSN CELAC Plan.
 9. Reiterate the call to the Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to continue supporting the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women in the process of the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Gender Strategy of the FSN-CELAC Plan.
 10. "Ratify our rejection the to the application of unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, including the lists and certifications that concerns countries in



Latin America and the Caribbean”, as manifested by the heads of government in the V Summit of the Heads of State and Government, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.²

11. To thank the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, held by the Republic of El Salvador and the Regional Office of FAO, for the realization of the IV Meeting of the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women, as well as the Association of Women “of Limoncito AMUL”, Bolivian government and people for the hospitality provided.

² Abstinance reserved: Paraguay and Argentina; Colombia ad referendum.