



PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Statement by the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations on behalf of
the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

ITEM 29: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

GENERAL DISCUSSION

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CELAC countries reaffirm the importance of the full, accelerated and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its review conferences.

We affirm our commitment to promote gender equity and equality, as well as the advancement of women, as necessary conditions to achieve full exercise and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms, as well as all human rights, including the right to development in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We commit to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, adolescents and girls, to promote their political and economic empowerment by eliminating all social barriers, approving and strengthening public policies and laws to promote gender equality, to ensure full access to education and justice, as well as economic and financial autonomy, and political participation and representation.

Mr. Chair,

We recognize the international commitments made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including, inter alia, in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and its key actions for its further implementation, and consequently we are committed to strengthen the policy, legal and political frameworks, as well as to enhance the support for the national machineries for the advancement of women.

We are deeply concerned that 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty and acknowledge that progress in the eradication of poverty has been uneven and that inequality has increased. We express our concern that poverty is a serious impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that the feminization of poverty persists. We acknowledge the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty and stresses the importance of support for countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

The commitment and actions to promote women's full and active political participation as well as equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of government in decision-

making processes, including at the highest levels in the political, economic, cultural, social and environmental sectors should be given increased priority in national, regional and international agendas.

CELAC Member States attach particular importance to the protection of migrant women and girls. The contribution of women migrant workers to the sustainable development and economic growth of countries of destination and origin must be fully valued and recognized. The human rights of migrant women must be fully respected regardless of their migratory status.

Mr. Chair,

We reaffirm the importance on design and implement national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, and create an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including those involving domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

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

We express our commitment to implement, with the assistance of relevant stakeholders, measures and embark upon campaigns to dismantle patriarchal cultural stereotypes that perpetuate the unequal division of labor solely on the basis of sex. We further commit to the implementation of policies and programs aimed at promoting access to decent work for women, in particular for those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination with special attention given to young women, indigenous women, women of African descent, rural women, migrant women, older women, women with disabilities and women living with HIV.

Mr. Chair,

Our member States recognize the contributions of older women, including widowed women, to households and communities, especially in cases where they are left behind by migrating adults, or as a result of other socioeconomic factors, to assume childcare, household and agricultural responsibilities.

CELAC Member States reaffirm their commitment to ensure that women affected by natural disasters, including those caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in leadership and decision-making processes in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

We recognize the important contribution of feminist and women's movements and civil society organizations to placing the interests, needs, and vision of women on the international agenda.

We also recognize the important role and contribution of rural women as critical agents in the eradication of poverty, in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as their important role in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and in peace building, among others.

We acknowledge also, that some representatives from our region met in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from February 6 to 7, 2018, for the regional consultations of Latin America and the Caribbean jointly convened with UN Women, where Ministers and Seniors Officials of the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women in the region participated in a fruitful discussions and adopted the Santo Domingo Declaration, which reflects the important perspectives that will contribute to our continued efforts to ensure the economic empowerment of all women and girls.

CELAC Member States renew their strong support to the mandate of UN Women, we welcome the strengthening of its capacity and experience. However, we recognize that much remains to be done, requiring coordinated and coherent work at all levels, particularly within the UN development system.

CELAC also advocates for more international dialogue and consensus, as well as enhanced international cooperation, to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

To conclude Mr. Chair,

The governments of the region maintain their firm commitment to promoting equity, equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We strongly believe that renewed commitments, improved policies and their rigorous implementation, and greater financing from all sources, including increased official development assistance, are required in order to leave no woman or girl behind.

I thank you,