
SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY, A PENDING CHALLENGE IN THE CELAC SPACE

The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), meeting in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, on January 24, 2023, aware that achieving equality and gender equity in all areas and levels is a fundamental condition for building more just, peaceful, cohesive, egalitarian, prosperous and sustainable societies;

1. RECALLED the provisions of the "Special Declaration on the Promotion of Equity and Empowerment of Women in the new post-2015 development agenda", emanating from the II CELAC Presidential Summit held in Cuba in January 2014; the "Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equality and Equity and the Eradication of Violence against Women", approved during the V CELAC Presidential Summit held in 2017 in the Dominican Republic, as well as in the Political Declaration of the VI Summit CELAC Presidential Meeting held in Mexico in September 2021, documents in which the States commit to adopting policies, strategies and all necessary measures to achieve a sustained process, until achieving substantive equality without gender distinction;

2. EMPHASIZED the urgency of intensifying and reinforcing comprehensive public policies – based on the obligations and commitments derived from treaties and regional initiatives, and recognizing the full validity of the Beijing Declaration and Platform, and the results of its subsequent review meetings - to prevent, eradicate and punish gender violence in all its expressions - including digital violence - whose figures worsened with the health crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic;

3. STATED the importance of including the gender perspective in national plans and programs, recognizing the risks and impacts on women, particularly those who face discrimination and violence;

4. RECOGNIZED the existence of multiple interrelated crises and the multidimensional impact of the COVID-19 health crisis, which revealed the disproportionate burden of household work and care that falls mainly on all women, adolescents and girls who must distribute their time and efforts between the tasks they carry out inside and outside the home; and made visible the importance of care tasks in our societies, which are mostly performed by women, adolescents and girls, and which to date are not paid or considered in the national accounts, in many cases;

5. APPRECIATED the efforts made by the CELAC States in terms of economic autonomy for all women in a manner consistent with national legislation, in all sectors, especially those that are most vulnerable and that disproportionately affect women, particularly those who live in a context of poverty, as a mechanism that contributes to reducing inequalities and preventing economic violence;

6. ADDRESSED the need to create recovery plans with affirmative actions that promote decent, meaningful and equal work, as well as the active participation of women in leadership positions, in order to achieve an economic recovery with gender equality;

7. UNDERLINED the relevance of gradually incorporating the gender perspective according to the legislation of each State, at all stages of preparation, implementation and monitoring of

cooperation policies and strategies by the corresponding Agencies or formal institutions, valuing especially its relevance in South-South Cooperation initiatives;

8. CALLED on men, adolescents, and boys to become transformative agents and allies to achieve this objective, understanding that, in the transition towards parity, their commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women is essential for faster and more sustainable progress;

9. HIGHLIGHTED what was expressed in the Joint Declaration of the XXIII Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers, which took place in Buenos Aires, on October 26, 2022, regarding the call to strengthen cooperation in terms of autonomy and empowerment of women, adolescents and girls and they agree to strengthen the bi-regional dialogue to achieve this objective, including on the agenda the exchange of experiences in the field of Feminist Foreign Policy.

10. COMMITTED to promote the political and economic empowerment of all women, as well as to implement public policies that promote their economic autonomy, through their greater participation in the labor market and entrepreneurship of scale and access to hierarchical and decision-making positions;

11. RECOGNIZED the importance of advancing in the comparative analysis of the national legislations of the CELAC countries, concerning gender equality in order to carry out a Cooperation Plan that allows guaranteeing the rights of women and develop a set of efficient and effective public policies;

12. WELCOMED the agreements adopted at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires from November 7 to 11, 2022, which are aligned with Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly in reference to the need to implement national care systems that make visible, value, reward, and redistribute care tasks that are mostly performed by women, adolescents and girls;

13. PROMOTED the holding of the First Meeting of Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in 2023, as a way to strengthen spaces for high-level dialogue with a view to coordinating multilateral and regional efforts to eradicate the different forms of violence based on gender and strengthen care systems, as well as exchange experiences, learning and good practices in domestic public policies focused on the incorporation and mainstreaming of the gender approach, including Foreign Policy.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 24, 2023