From Havana (1977) to Havana (2017)

The lives of Latin American and Caribbean women over the past 40 years

Alicia Bárcena
Executive Secretary

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
Havana 1977-2017
Havana: 40 years on the road to gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Fundamental principle:
• Equality based on effective rights ownership throughout the life cycle

Objectives:
• Equality in access to education, health and social security
• Equality in income and the labour market, wages and time
• Equality with innovation, productive and territorial convergence
Why gender equality?

• The durability of the wealth-concentration model is being challenged by global food, energy and climate crises

• Three dimensions reflecting tensions:
  o Culture of privilege/culture of equality
  o Distribution of productivity gains between capital and work (wages)
  o Rent-seeking and extractivism/environmental resource governance

• Inequality is a structural challenge that hinders sustainable development and is a focus of the 2030 Agenda
Three types of autonomy for the full emancipation of women

In decision-making

Economic

Physical
Where are we?

- Latin American women and societies have experienced profound changes over the past 40 years.
- Inequalities persist despite varying degrees of progress.
- Today we reaffirm the principles of equality based on three types of autonomy, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Consensuses of Quito, Brasilia, Santo Domingo and Montevideo.
- The aim is to strengthen women’s economic autonomy and to consolidate the progress made in achieving physical and political autonomy or in decision-making.
Demographic changes serve as the backdrop for many of the transformations in women’s lives in Latin America and the Caribbean (37 countries and territories): female population, 1977-2017 (Millions).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latin America: Life expectancy at birth, female population, by five-year periods (Years).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975-1980</td>
<td>66.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2015</td>
<td>77.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latin America: Distribution of female population in urban and rural areas, 1970-2015 (Percentages).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Urban Population (%)</th>
<th>Rural Population (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>58.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Families are more diverse; women are having fewer children; but adolescent pregnancy persists

Latin America (18 countries): Household trends according to family type, 1990-2008 (Weighted average)

Latin America and the Caribbean: Overall fertility rate and adolescent fertility rate, by five-year periods
(Number of children per woman and number of living children per 1,000 adolescent women aged 15-19)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.
Monetary poverty has a bigger impact on women

Latin America (18 countries): Poverty and femininity index of poor households, 1997-2014 (Percentages)

INCOME EQUAL TO OR HIGHER THAN 4 TIMES THE MINIMUM WAGE

INCOME EQUAL TO 2-4 TIMES THE MINIMUM WAGE

INCOME EQUAL TO 1-2 TIMES THE MINIMUM WAGE

INCOME LOWER THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE

POPULATION WITHOUT OWN INCOME

Latin America (17 countries): distribution of the population aged 15 and older on the basis of income compared to the minimum wage, around 2014
The illiteracy gap is closing; more women are gaining access to secondary education; they represent the majority of students in higher education and 40% of R&D researchers.

**Latin America and the Caribbean: Illiteracy in the population aged 15 and older, 1970-2015**

(Percentages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Latin America (15 countries): Percentage of population aged 20-24 having completed secondary education, by gender**

(Percentages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>64.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Latin America and the Caribbean: Gender parity in higher education**

**Source:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute of Statistics.
Women are expanding work boundaries. More women are participating in the labour market, but in areas of low productivity, and they continue to do unpaid care and domestic work.

**Latin America (20 countries): Female participation in the labour market**
*(Percentage of population aged 15 and older)*

**Latin America (18 countries): Jobs according to productivity of sectors, around 2014**
*(Percentages)*

**Latin America (8 countries): time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by the population aged 15 and older in households where care is needed, by gender**
*(Hours per week)*
Obstacles to labour force participation: 30% of young people not in school or in employment are women (compared with 11% of men)

YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, SCHOOL OR TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND IN OECD COUNTRIES, 2014
(Rates and gaps in percentage points)
From the exercise of citizenship to the exercise of power
More women are occupying decision-making roles, but parity is still far off

Latin America and the Caribbean (9 countries): Years since the adoption of women’s suffrage and the election of a woman as head of State

1970
- Brazil: 1932
- Jamaica: 1944
- Panama: 1946
- Argentina: 1947
- Chile: 1949
- Costa Rica: 1949
- Dominica: 1951
- Guyana: 1953
- Nicaragua: 1955

2015
- Brazil: 2011
- Jamaica: 2006
- Panama: 1999
- Argentina: 2007
- Chile: 2006
- Costa Rica: 2010
- Dominica: 1980
- Guyana: 1997
- Nicaragua: 1990

Latin America and the Caribbean: Women in national legislative bodies, 1970-2015 (Percentages)

The most dramatic and radical expression of violence against women: feminicide

Latin America (17 countries) and the Caribbean (8 countries):
Femicide or feminicide, 2016 (Absolute figures)

Over the past 40 years, the Regional Gender Agenda has fostered transformative public policies.
There are gender equality plans in 23 of the region’s countries but they must still be linked with sustainable development plans and budgets.
All countries in the region have laws on violence against women, 10 have comprehensive laws on violence against women and 17 have laws on feminicide

Latin America: countries that classify femicide, feminicide or gender-based aggravated homicide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of regulation</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Criminal offence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Law No. 26.791</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Aggravated homicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (Plur. State of)</td>
<td>Law No. 348</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Law No. 13.104</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Law No. 20.480</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Rosa Elvira Cely Law</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Law No. 8.589</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Law No. 779</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Organic Comprehensive Penal Code (COIP)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>Decree No. 520</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Decree No. 22-2008</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Decree No. 23-2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Law No. 779</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>Law No. 82</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Law No. 5.777</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Law No. 30.068</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Feminicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of)</td>
<td>Law reforming the Organic Act on women’s right to a life free of violence</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Femicide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean [online] http://oig.cepal.org/en and official websites of the respective countries. (Updated as of 2017)
Positive measures to accelerate women’s participation in decision-making processes

Latin America and the Caribbean: laws on quotas and parity, year of the first positive measure

Countries with quota laws
- Argentina, 1991
- Bolivia (Plur. State of), 1997
- Brazil, 1995
- Chile, 2015
- Colombia, 2000
- Costa Rica, 1990
- Dominican Republic, 1997
- Ecuador, 1998
- El Salvador, 2013
- Haiti, 2012
- Honduras, 2000
- Haiti, 2012
- Paraguay, 1996
- Peru, 1997
- Panama, 1997
- Paraguay, 1996
- Peru, 1997
- Paraguay, 1996
- Bolivia (Plur. State of), 1997
- Bolivia (Plur. State of), 1997
- Bolivia (Plur. State of), 1997

Countries with parity laws
- Paraguay, 1996
- Paraguay, 1996
- Paraguay, 1996
- Paraguay, 1996
- Paraguay, 1996

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of legislation in the respective countries. Quota Project, Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)/IDEA/Stockholm University. [online: http://www.quotaproject.org/] (Updated as of 2017).
19 countries in the region implement some form of time-use measurement. This has helped to determine the economic value of unpaid domestic and care work.

Latin America (8 countries): economic value of unpaid domestic work in relation to GDP (Percentages of GDP)

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Equality and women’s autonomy in the sustainable development agenda (LC/G.2686(CRM.13/3)), Santiago, 2016.
Strengthening the regional framework

- Consolidate the **Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean** as a platform for progress in gender equality and women’s emancipation
- Implement the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the sustainable development framework by 2030 with **policies and instruments to achieve the three types of autonomy: economic, political and physical**
- Promote **the regional Gender Equality Observatory** and break the statistical silence
- Discuss the **regional follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals** with the participation of the entire UN System
- Promote **regional and South-South cooperation** with a view to sharing experiences at the regional level
Changing the conversation

• A new policy dialogue is needed amid transformation of the economy, policy and technology and a period of uncertainty for the region

• The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals represent a framework of guidelines built around values shared by the entire international community

• This forum, with its diversity of actors, scope and capacities, is a supportive environment for building a shared vision and new political alliances that can drive sustainable development

Without gender equality, sustainable development is neither genuine development nor sustainable