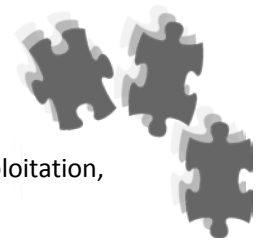


A LOOK FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE POST-2015 WORK



This document of the Committee of NGOs of CSW for Latin America and the Caribbean was prepared by an independent group designated by the Committee of NGOs of CSW and with contributions from NGOs, networks and experts from the region (see list in Appendix). The purpose of this document is to contribute the voice of civil society to the elaboration of the final document of CSW. The result of a robust regional consultation, it proposes the continuation of the dialogue before and during CSW.

With the support of the Regional Office of UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean



INTRODUCTION

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the impossibility of fulfilling all the MDGs and their targets is evident. The region continues to be the most unequal in the world,¹ and although there have been advances in the elimination of poverty, the proposed targets were not and will not be achieved. Women's organizations, groups and networks from Latin America and the Caribbean are concerned that while many countries report significant advances in the achievement of the MDGs,² the lack of guarantees to secure the economic, social, cultural, sexual and reproductive rights of women has not been sufficiently acknowledged. Discrimination persists, reproducing gender roles that attribute care tasks, household work and reproduction to women, which results in vast inequalities. These will be difficult to overcome if cultural values and the development and distribution model do not change. We cannot overlook the fact that in spite of considerable economic growth in the region in the last decade, in contrast to previous decades, conditions did not improve for women, adolescents and girls. Particular attention must be paid to the enabling macroeconomic policies required to realize women's economic, social and cultural rights and advancements towards achieving sustainable development outcomes, with all stakeholders held responsible within the human rights framework. Moreover, there are more serious conditions of inequality in the region for indigenous women from diverse communities and nationalities, Afro-descendant, rural, migrant, LGBT women, sex workers, women living with HIV, and those with disabilities. We therefore evaluate in this report, as diverse groups of women from throughout the region, advances in the MDGs and difficulties therein, highlighting important issues not included in the MDGs, such as violence against women, adolescents and girls, and human

trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, among others.

Although two goals, MDG 3 and 5, refer to gender issues, gender equality was not explicitly included in the goals. Restricting women's, adolescents' and girls' rights to only two goals with very high targets, which are far from being achieved by 2015, does not acknowledge the interdependency of the goals and the key role of gender equality in development. Therefore, we demand **a stand-alone goal on gender equality** in the new development agenda, along with concrete indicators, and the cross-cutting incorporation of gender equality in the other objectives. **A specific goal on gender equality** and its prioritization throughout the agenda are fundamental to achieve the full exercise of women's and girls' human rights, and to guarantee a post-2015 development framework that is truly transformative and sustainable.

Climate change exacerbates women's poverty, increasing their work for the basic provision of food, water and fuel and undermining their rights to life, health and self-determination.

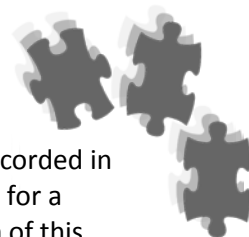
The inclusion of a stand-alone goal and a gender perspective throughout the new post-2015 development agenda will allow for the addressing of certain key elements that the MDGs left out, such as **violence against women and girls and sexual and reproductive rights**. In Latin America and the Caribbean, violence against women is a widely-recognized limitation to achieving gender equality.³ Violence is perpetuated due to a lack of policy implementation and effective legislation, as well as budgetary shortages. Another issue that should not be overlooked in the new development agenda is **human trafficking, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation**, which accounts for more than 50% of the cases of human trafficking in our region and which disproportionately affects women and girls.

This standalone goal should be accompanied by the design and adoption of a system of progress indicators that permit the measurement and evaluation of women's and girls' access to and enjoyment of their human rights.

¹ CEPAL et al. Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe: Seguimiento de la Agenda de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Post-2015 y Río +20, August 2013.

² "El cumplimiento de los ODM en Región Andina", AC Democracia, February 2014; "México en el cumplimiento de los ODM hacia 2015", Elizabeth Plácido, February 2014; Telam Agencia Nacional de Noticias, <http://www.telam.com.ar/notas/201311/39522-edwin-aseguran-que-argentina-cumple-con-los-objetivos-de-desarrollo-propuestos-por-la-onu.html>, Argentina, 2013; "Wheel and come again: addressing the progress towards the MDG 2015, Caribbean Regional Report", Sistren Theatre Collective, Women Inc, WROC, CAFRA, Jamaica Household Workers Union, Jamaica Community of Positive Women and JYAN, and others, February 2014.

³ Idem 1



RECOMMENDATIONS

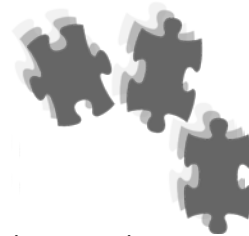
The important gaps in the accomplishment of the MDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean recorded in this report, as well as the exclusion of key issues from the MDG framework, evidence the need for a standalone goal on gender equality, women's rights and empowerment, and the incorporation of this approach throughout all goals, targets and indicators in the Post-2015 development agenda. **It is not possible to achieve gender equality without the full exercise of women's and girls' human rights.** Therefore, we urge governments to:

- **INCORPORATE A STANDALONE GOAL ON GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT**

- Adopt **indicators on gender gaps in order to measure inequalities** from within the current human rights framework
- Guarantee the **right to a life free of violence** and discrimination for all women. Develop effective national and local policies, and adopt preventive, penal, sanction, protection and care measures to eradicate all forms of violence and stigma against women, girls, adolescents, elderly women, indigenous and Afro-descendant women, women living with HIV, and rural, LGBT and disabled women, and include the effective use of information and communication technology with an inter-cultural perspective, in order to achieve greater inclusion and equality for all women
- Ensure **sexual and reproductive rights** by incorporating them as an integral part of women's and girls' human rights, and the enjoyment of these rights as a key element of women's and girls' empowerment and autonomy, overcoming all forms of discrimination women and girls currently experience
- Guarantee **universal access to comprehensive and quality sexual and reproductive health services**: contraceptive methods, safe abortion,

prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV, and maternity care, emphasizing equality and respect for diversity

- Guarantee **equitable and universal access to formal and popular education** over the course of a lifetime, including **comprehensive sexuality education**, gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability
- Guarantee **women's access to and control over economic and natural resources** and address inequalities, particularly through the implementation of an equitable system of distribution of domestic and unpaid care work between women and men, ensuring social security and access to decent work
- Guarantee mechanisms to ensure **women's participation in all levels of political, social, work and union-related decision-making**, eliminating all forms of discrimination and abuses that women currently experience, with the goal of achieving their empowerment
- Address the **structural causes of armed conflict**, mainstreaming a gender perspective in all efforts to prevent, resolve and recover from conflict
- Promote **innovative and democratic financing mechanisms**, including flexible support to civil society and women's organizations over the long-term



ACHIEVE DECENT AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL, INCLUDING WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Although this MDG 1 target reports some significant advances for women and young people, there are still clearly marked gaps that demonstrate structural problems in their insertion in the labor market. Moreover, in various countries of the region these advances occurred in the years of economic growth from 2003-2008, and there was a halt or decline with the economic crisis of 2008, which still has an impact on the participation of women and young people in the labor market.⁴ Public policies have not achieved an improvement in the quality of employment, and women primarily participate in informal, low-paid jobs of poor quality and with precarious conditions. The salary gap still prevails between men and women, and women account for the majority of unemployed people in all the countries of the region.⁵

Women's labor participation and regulation

The achievement of women's labor participation and regulation is a complex challenge, and there are still pending issues to foster the participation of women and the formalization of employment, especially in relation to rural women and women from different communities: indigenous, Afro-descendant, and/or diverse sexual identities. What is certain is that the growth in female employment masks the instability and poor labor conditions that characterize women's employment.⁶ Although in 2010/2011 there was a slight increase in the employment rate, the unfavorable gap persists for women and young people.⁷ A characteristic of women's paid employment in the region is their prevalence in the informal sector (more than 50%), in low-

qualification jobs with fewer working hours and lower salary than men. This is even more evident in women with lower educational levels. Peru was the country that registered the greatest increase in the region in 2012. Women are over-represented in the informal labor market and also in the unemployment rate.⁸ From the 14.8 million people looking for work, 7.7 million are women. Among young people, the NiNi population (from Spanish "ni trabaja ni estudia," those who neither work nor study) has increased and women account for 70% of this group.⁹

In the Andean sub-region, in general, the insertion of women in the labor market, with some important variants, continues to be marked by segmentation and discrimination. Most female employment is concentrated in the informal sector, many times in poor conditions and in the service sector, small businesses and community services, especially in urban areas.¹⁰

In the sub-region of Mexico, Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean, high levels of informal employment are reported, with Guatemala and Honduras reporting the highest figures. According to ILO, in 2012, countries show broad similarities. Rates range from the lowest in Honduras, with 42.5% female participation to the highest in Panama with 49.6%. The goal of achieving decent work in Mexico has been seriously affected by the collapse of the GDP in the last year.¹¹ The great decline in employment affects women and young people. Elderly women are also affected by poor income. In Mexico,

⁴ CEPAL: Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. El Progreso de América Latina y el Caribe hacia los objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Desafíos para lograrlo con igualdad. Santiago de Chile, 2010.

⁵ Bianco, M., Finikin, L., Paricio, D., Rosero, R., Rossette, L.C. El Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia en América Latina y el Caribe, Análisis de la Sociedad Civil, Octubre de 2013.

⁶ CEDEM et al., Chile Informe Conjunto de la Sociedad Civil para el Examen Periódico Universal Consejo de Derechos Humanos – 18º Período de Sesiones, Junio de 2013.

⁷ OIT. Panorama Laboral, 2013.

⁸ Confederación General del Trabajo. Evaluación del cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio -ODM- Colombia, 2014.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Díaz, W.P., Gamarra, K.U., García, B.Q., García-Prince, E., Mauleón, C.O. Evaluación del Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia, Documento Subregional Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela, Octubre de 2013.

¹¹ "Aumenta número de pobres en México. CONEVAL". El Economista, México, julio 2013.

92.7% of women above 60 years old did not receive a pension in 2013.¹²

In Central America, the situation is similar, but aggravated by the fact that a great proportion of women are heads of households. Afro-descendant and indigenous women account for 25% more than the rest of women.

In the Southern Cone and Brazil sub-region, the incorporation of women in the labor market has increased in the last few decades and their presence is increasingly permanent. Nevertheless, women are overrepresented in activities related to the service sector, in which housekeeping has a leading role. In this regard, it is significant that Convention 189 on household workers was only enforced in September 2013, although it was signed in 2011. Currently, only five Latin American countries have ratified this Convention (Uruguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Ecuador) and only 11 in the world. At the same time, the labor market is vertically fragmented, such that women work in jobs that are considered typically feminine and in lower-level positions, implying lower salary and greater instability.

Over the past several years, the governments of the Caribbean have passed laws that regulate labor rights, except for Haiti, but this did not result in increased participation of women in the labor market. On the contrary, the financial crisis in 2008/09 caused stagnation and decay in most countries. There are variations in the countries with regard to the salary gap; in the Dominican Republic, it is 20%. In Puerto Rico, for example, 30,000 public officials were without work during the period 2009-2012, over 80% of whom were women. Women's unemployment is double that of men and is even worse among young people.

Sexual division of labor

The sexual division of labor impedes the insertion of women in positions of equal conditions that

would allow for the full exercise of their rights, as they are confined to unpaid jobs and to domestic and care work.¹³ There is a lack of equitable distribution of domestic work and provision of services that would enable women to participate in the labor market. The statistical instruments necessary to take full stock of the unfair distribution of time between men and women with regard to care work in the region continue to be poor and unsystematic in the majority of countries.¹⁴ For example, in Chile, household work is mainly carried out by women (76.1%) and household care work is also a job performed by women (36.9%), compared to men (9.2%).¹⁵ In Uruguay, the average hours per week devoted to unpaid jobs by women is 41, compared to 16 in men.¹⁶ In Argentina, in total and on average, women dedicate double the amount of time to care activities compared to men.¹⁷ In addition, a lack of personal income or insufficient economic resources limits women's autonomy and is part of the vicious cycle that confines women to the informal labor market.

The necessity of care work is not seen as an important arena of public policy in the region for several reasons. In Bolivia and Peru, for example, weak state institutions impede the application of laws that would promote advances in this regard.¹⁸ It is important to mention the poor conditions in which caregivers perform paid work, women migrants among them, who are particularly utilized for jobs without social security.¹⁹ The lack of education and information on the distribution of care tasks is a characteristic in most countries of the region.

Use of time

¹³ Rosero Garcés, R. Informe Regional sobre Cumplimiento de ODM en los Países de la Subregión Andina, Quito, 2014.

¹⁴ Pautassi, L. y Zibecchi, C., *Las fronteras del cuidado. Agenda, derechos e infraestructura*, ELA y Editorial Biblos, Buenos Aires, 2013.

¹⁵ CEDEM et al., 2013.

¹⁶ CEPAL, Observatorio de Igualdad de Género de América Latina y el Caribe, 2012. Available at: <http://www.cepal.org/oig/ws/getRegionalIndicator.asp?page=13&language=spanish>

¹⁷ Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos (GCBA). EAH 2005. Encuesta de Uso del Tiempo.

¹⁸ Rosero Garcés, R., 2014.

¹⁹ Bianco, M. et al., 2013.

¹² INMUJERES Tarjetas estatales y municipales.

<http://estadistica.inmujeres.gob.mx/formas/fichas.php?pag=2>

Gender inequalities are present not only in the different forms of participation and payment between men and women in the labor market, but also in the distribution of the use of time.²⁰ Surveys on the use of time are the most important tools to measure daily unpaid workload in countries. Until recently, unpaid work, which has been performed by women for ages, was an invisible sphere in the countries' societies and economies.²¹

These studies are not systematically carried out in the region. Mexico is one of the countries with the greatest precedent in this arena. The first survey was carried out in 2002, and the one performed in 2009 has served as a reference for other countries. This survey reflected a satellite account in 2011, which complies with the requirements for suggesting changes from 2015 onwards.

In countries in the Southern Cone and Brazil sub-region, studies carried out evidence deep gender inequalities, in which women are accountable for the care activities, as well as in the use of free time between men and women.²² For example, in Argentina women dedicate 25% more time to work than men and invest 78% of total time in unpaid care work, while men only carry out 22%.²³ At the same time, one study revealed that 76% of children under the age of 13 in the city of Buenos Aires are cared for at home by their mothers, and only 22% report being cared for by their male guardians.²⁴

Unemployment

Regarding the creation of jobs, although there have been some feeble advances, it is important to consider the quality of these jobs, especially for women and young people. Moreover, as

countries in the region could neither eliminate poverty nor diminish social inequality, union specialists on the development agenda have expressed the need to establish national social protection floors according to the 202 ILO Recommendation, which includes the elderly and adults with insufficient income (unemployment, underemployment, disease, maternity and disability).²⁵ Although women account for half of the total population and the working population, they are over-represented in the group outside of the labor market (71.7%) and under-represented among those who are employed (41.1%).²⁶ Unemployment rates in young people are high and there is a bias against hiring young people – which is even worse in the case of young women.²⁷ The highest unemployment rates in women and young people reveal inequalities in the labor market in the region. Differences between men and women have not yet been modified, because unemployment is still higher among women.²⁸ Mexico is one of the countries with the greatest drop in the rate of participation of the active population, reporting a decline in the participation of young people (15-24) in the labor market.²⁹

In the Caribbean, high unemployment rates are reported,³⁰ with women's unemployment twice as high as men's in some countries. Women's unemployment in non-rural sectors is still very high.³¹ Among young people, unemployment is even worse, with the highest rates registered among young women.

²⁵ Conclusiones Reunión Sindical de Expertos sobre la Agenda de Desarrollo Post 2015. OIT, Ginebra, May 2013.

²⁶ CEPAL, FAO, ONU Mujeres, PNUD, OIT Informe Regional. Trabajo decente e igualdad de género. Políticas para mejorar el acceso y la calidad del empleo de las mujeres en América Latina y el Caribe. Santiago, 2013

²⁷ CEPAL, 2010.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Plácido, E. C. México en el cumplimiento de los ODM hacia 2015, 2014.

³⁰ Baksh, R. and Vassell, R. Final Report Presented to OAS/CIM and UN Women, Women's Citizenship and Democracy in the Anglophone Caribbean, October 2012.

³¹ SISTREN Theatre Collective and Women's Resource & Outreach Centre. "Wheel And Come Again": Assessing the Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals 2015, Caribbean Regional Report, February 2014.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ CEPAL, División de Asuntos de Género. Tiempo total de trabajo (remunerado y no remunerado): Recopilación experiencias encuestas Uso del tiempo en los países, 2010.

²² Bianco, M. et al., 2013.

²³ PNUD. "El trabajo de cuidado no remunerado." Nota de Políticas – Igualdad de Género y Reducción de la Pobreza. Número 1, Octubre 2009.

²⁴ Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos (GCBA). EAH 2005. Encuesta de Uso del Tiempo.

Even employed people face underemployment because they work few hours, are not paid a minimum wage and do not have social security. For example, in Costa Rica, an important sector of employed people reports insufficient working hours.³²

Unemployment has varying impacts depending on the population group. The most affected are women in general, and in particular indigenous and tribal,³³ rural, young and elderly, transgender and disabled women,³⁴ those with educational deficiencies, or with health problems such as women living with HIV, whose rights to a decent job and an adequate standard of living are violated.³⁵ In Peru, indigenous women face other disadvantages in the urban labor environment, stemming from ethnic, racial and cultural discrimination. Those who work in rural areas are also overburdened.

³² Asociación Nacional de Educadores ANDE. Comentarios y análisis de los ODM, 2014.

³³ This includes Maroon communities.

³⁴ Declaración de Panamá, Seminario Taller Regional “El rol de las mujeres, adolescentes y niñas con discapacidad: ejercicio de derechos e inclusión en el desarrollo social,” Panama, 4 and 5 December 2013.

³⁵ Plácido, E. C., 2014.



ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

The right to education is complex in nature, not only because of its essence but also because it is a condition and requirement to achieve equality between women and men with regard to labor participation, adequate wages, social and political participation, among other issues, and to guarantee awareness of rights. It was included in the MDGs as a specific Goal ³⁶ and as a Target ³⁷.

The challenge of achieving these goals was presented in a way that is oversimplified considering the complexities women in Latin America and the Caribbean face. First, access to education was considered as one of the main indicators, without considering that the region had practically achieved the universalization of access to primary education at the beginning of the 90's. It was also not taken into account that the region's main problem is not access to primary education, but rather access to secondary education, along with continued enrollment at different stages of education, the quality of education and the educational content, which tends to reproduce gender stereotypes. ³⁸

Second, access to education was measured on the basis of national figures, which overlooks differences within each country, especially between capital cities and rural areas, between

groups of different racial, ethnic and social origin, sexual identity, social class, and others ³⁹ who suffer discrimination and have serious difficulties in accessing and remaining enrolled in school.

Violence against girls and adolescents and sexual harassment at schools are some of the most harmful barriers to continued enrollment in the educational system. The lack of denunciation mechanisms within the system without fear of stigma makes the situation worse. Many reports attest to this reality. ⁴⁰ Other factors working against ongoing enrollment in the system are early motherhood, early marriage, the need to exclusively devote one's self to household tasks, the families' fears for the safety of girls and adolescents, the cost of transportation, as well as the lack of value given to the formal education of women and the inaction of governments to address this problem. ⁴¹

Primary education

The region has achieved 95% net access to primary education, although some countries are behind, especially Dominica (73%), Antigua and Barbuda (74%), Dominican Republic (82%) and Jamaica (86%). On the contrary, in countries such as Argentina, Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Mexico and Peru, the universal access target could be considered achieved as the level of net enrollment surpasses 99%, ⁴² notwithstanding geographic difficulties in the Amazonian and Andean regions. Despite quantitative advances,

³⁶ MDG suggests "Achieve universal primary education". One of its targets (2a) seeks: "Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling"

³⁷ MDG 3, "Promote gender equality and empower women" has as 3rd target: "Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015".

³⁸ The information available in Argentina, for example, indicates that continued enrollment in school is more linked to one's socioeconomic situation than to gender, though the reasons for dropping out of school in adolescence have a clear gender bias related to adolescent pregnancy and the caretaking responsibilities assigned to girls. See "El derecho a la educación, a la igualdad de oportunidades y al desempeño científico y tecnológico de las mujeres", in ELA –Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género, *Informe sobre género y derechos humanos. Vigencia y respeto de los derechos de las mujeres en Argentina (2005-2008)*, ELA, Editorial Biblos, Buenos Aires, 2009.

³⁹ Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas. Inequidades: manifestación de la violencia estructural hacia las mujeres indígenas, October, 2012.

⁴⁰ CIDH. Informe anual 2010 - Capítulo II. numeral 45. marzo 2011. Available at: <http://www.cidh.oas.org/annualrep/2010sp/CAP.II.doc> and Amnistía Internacional, Campaña No más Violencia contra las Mujeres. Escuelas seguras para las niñas. <http://www.es.amnesty.org/campanas/no-mas-violencia-contra-las-mujeres/actua/escuelas-seguras/>

⁴¹ CLADEM: Acceso a la educación de las mujeres indígenas, campesinas, afrodescendientes y de sectores rurales. Hacia la igualdad y no discriminación, Audiencia temática CIDH, Washington, 2011.

⁴² CEPAL: Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. El Progreso de América Latina y el Caribe hacia los objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Desafíos para lograrlo con igualdad. Santiago de Chile, 2010.

in some cases decay in the quality of education, as in Argentina, affects learning capacity.

Although access has been universalized, there are problems in the completion of the primary education cycle by those with access. The general level of permanence in school in the region is 80%, but there are countries in which early school drop-out surpasses 30%: Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. Urban women finish this education cycle to a greater extent than indigenous women living in rural areas. The number of women left behind in the school system is accumulating and the socio-economic inequalities by geographical area or ethnic origin are increasing.⁴³ Another important challenge is the elimination of illiteracy⁴⁴ which prevails in the region, especially among indigenous, rural and disabled women, who have lower access to education.⁴⁵

Secondary education

Both access to secondary education and continued enrollment therein show very diverse figures, ranging from 80% (Bahamas, Chile, Cuba, Grenada) to very low levels, where more than two thirds of young people are behind or have dropped out of the educational system (El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua). The regional average barely surpasses 50%. Central America, Colombia and Uruguay report less than 40%. In rural areas, or indigenous territories, early drop-out occurs among girls more often than boys. This translates into lower rates of completion of secondary school.

Pregnant adolescents and mothers face discrimination ranging from impediments to

continuing school⁴⁶ and disciplinary punishment, to overt and subtle forms of marginalization, rejection and harassment by the educational community. This translates into the interruption of studies or transference to other institutions.⁴⁷ LGBT students are also a marginalized group in educational environments.⁴⁸

Educational curriculum

In most countries of the region, the educational curriculum has not been updated and there is still promotion of inequality between women and men. Gender equality regarding education implies the discussion of the quality of education, changes in the curricula, production and distribution of didactic and pedagogical material that are inclusive, the training of teachers and the conditions of their work, educational system financing and the analysis of educational policies with a gender equality perspective.⁴⁹

One of the urgent problems to tackle is addressing inter-cultural education with a gender perspective, which supposes a total re-conceptualization of the curriculum and educational practices. Indigenous and Afro-descendant women and men are working on this, although their proposals have not yet been considered in the educational reforms in their countries. However, they are mentioned in education laws in the political Constitutions of Bolivia and Ecuador.⁵⁰

Lastly, if we consider that today access to and handling of ICT are key to move forward in the world of employment and knowledge, programs to guarantee all women of all ages can access these resources need to be designed urgently. In

⁴³ Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas. "El monitoreo de los ODM a través de la perspectiva de los pueblos indígenas, June, 2013.

⁴⁴ Literacy is defined as the ability to read, write and understand a short sentence related to everyday life (UNESCO)

⁴⁵ UNICEF. Estado Mundial de la infancia, 2013, niños y niñas con discapacidad.

⁴⁶ CIDH: INFORME N° 33/02 -SOLUCIÓN AMISTOSA, PETICIÓN 12.046: Mónica Carabantes Galleguillos vs. Chile - 12 de marzo de 2002. The Chilean state had to respond to the abusive intrusion in the private life of Mónica Carabantes Galleguillos, who denounced the decision of the private college who expelled her because she was pregnant.

⁴⁷ CLADEM, 2011.

⁴⁸ International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "Violence and Discrimination against Lesbian, Bisexual Women and Transgender People Serve as Barriers to Achieving of Millennium Development Goals," 2013.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ CLADEM, 2011.

order to achieve this, sex-disaggregated data considering the level of access, use and participation of this technology by women in the region are needed, given that many studies have highlighted its absence.⁵¹

Comprehensive sexuality education ensured for all boys and girls

Comprehensive sexuality education was not incorporated as a target, which could have allowed a reaffirmation of the Cairo Program of Action and other international instruments, such as the Ministerial Declaration for Prevention through Education, in which this type of knowledge is considered vital.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, three countries (Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica) have a high level of specific legislation on comprehensive sexuality education in schools. Most of the countries (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela) have a middle level. Other countries have a low level (Haiti, Mexico and Panama). In ten countries there are problems in this regard (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Santa Lucia, Surinam and Trinidad and Tobago).⁵² The lack of these types of programs and difficulties in its adequate implementation are some of the factors influencing the high rates of unwanted adolescent pregnancy in the region as well as school drop-out rates. Setbacks in or failure to implement comprehensive sexuality education are often sustained by powers that infringe on the secular State.

Policies to reduce the prevalence of adolescent pregnancy should be undertaken comprehensively, with means to improve the sexual education of adolescents, adherence to

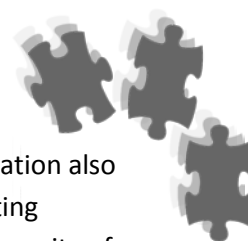
and flexibility of the educational system, to assure access to contraceptive methods, to offer work opportunities, especially to women, with training, credit and technical assistance programs.⁵³

⁵¹ ACDemocracia Ecuador - FEIM, Argentina: Evaluación del cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia. Documento Subregional, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela. October 2013-

⁵² Muñoz, Vernor. Relator para el Derecho a la Educación de Naciones Unidas: Educación sexual, Derecho Humano. La Piedra y el Viento. CLADEM, 2010.

⁵³ Rosero, R, Informe Regional sobre cumplimiento ODM en países de la Subregion Andina., Quito, Febrero de 2014

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Pace towards the achievement of this goal has been slow and there are still important challenges. Achievements in education and insertion in the labor market have not translated into greater equality between men and women in general terms.

Improve the economic participation of women and reduce the salary gap between men and women

The average labor participation rate among women in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased in recent years. However, a growing proportion of them that have entered the labor market have a low education level, work fewer hours and in low-productivity jobs, and therefore have lower incomes.⁵⁴ There is still a wide salary gap between men and women: women's salaries are still lower than men's, ranging from 10% to 25% less. This gap is the result, to certain extent, of the participation of women in jobs with lower incomes and shorter shifts.⁵⁵ Frequently, the widest salary gaps are among those who did not complete secondary school.⁵⁶

Gaps in participation are more evident regarding certain population groups: migrant, indigenous,⁵⁷ Afro-descendant, LGBT women, women living with HIV and others; and also those who live in rural areas or the poorest provinces/states. For example, among the indigenous population, the economic participation rate is 55.2% and when disaggregated by sex, 71% accounts for active men, while 40.1% accounts for active indigenous women, evidencing a significant gap in participation between indigenous women and

men.⁵⁸ Figures on economic participation also vary according to the source, indicating differences in official reports and a scarcity of data.⁵⁹

In the Andean sub-region, the growing insertion of women has changed the composition of the labor market; however, there is still segmentation and discrimination. Women's employment is concentrated in the informal sector, often in poor conditions,⁶⁰ with an unfavorable salary gap.

In the sub-region comprised of Mexico, Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, in 2012, the participation of men in the labor market was double that of women, with figures ranging from 70% to 80% of men and 40% to 50% of women participating. Women are mainly represented in the informal labor market, and therefore excluded from official data.⁶¹

In the sub-region Southern Cone and Brazil, in spite of the progressive increase in the participation of women in the labor market, there are still inequalities in access and salaries. Underemployment and low-qualification jobs are prevailing characteristics of women's participation in the labor market.⁶²

Regarding the Caribbean, the participation of men in the labor market doubles that of women in most of the countries, especially in Haiti and Jamaica. Isolated initiatives were carried out to foster women's labor rights, such as the Equal

⁵⁴ CEPAL et al. Desarrollo Sostenible en América Latina y el Caribe: Seguimiento de la Agenda de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Post-2015 y Río +20, Agosto de 2013.

⁵⁵ Inmujeres. "Estadísticas de Género 2012. La importancia de los ingresos personales para la equidad". Sistema de información de género. Montevideo: MIDES, 2013. Available at: <http://www.inmujeres.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/23479/1/estadisticasgenero2012final.pdf>

⁵⁶ Bianco, M., Finikin, L., Paricio, D., Rosero, R., Rossette, L.C. El Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia en América Latina y el Caribe, Análisis de la Sociedad Civil, October 2013.

⁵⁷ Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas. Inequidades: manifestación de la violencia estructural hacia las mujeres indígenas, October 2013.

⁵⁸ CEDEM yet al. Resumen Ejecutivo, Informe Alternativo para el Examen del Estado de Chile ante el Comité CEDAW en su 53ª Sesión, September 2012.

⁵⁹ Red Iberoamericana por la Igualdad Presupuestal entre Mujeres y Hombres. Análisis de la evolución de algunas Metas de Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) en el caso de México con perspectiva de género. México, February 2014.

⁶⁰ Rosero Garcés, R. Informe Regional sobre Cumplimiento de ODM en los Países de la Subregion Andina, Quito, 2014.

⁶¹ Rossette, L.C., CAUSA Consultora Social. Evaluación del Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia, Documento Subregional: México y Centroamérica. México, October 2013.

⁶² Comandini, T.H., Diniz, D., Duré, E., Paricio, D., Rocha, C., Schenck, M., Serafini, D. Evaluación del Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia, Documento Subregional Brasil y Cono Sur, 2013.

Salary Law proposed by Jamaica,⁶³ but improvements have not been observed. In the Dominican Republic, despite the fact that women make up over 60% of the central government, only 1 in 5 achieves decision-making status.

Increase the participation of women at all decision-making levels

Regarding the political participation of women and their access to decision-making spheres, there have been advances in most of the countries. Data on the participation of women in the low chambers of parliament show improvement compared to previous years.⁶⁴ However, in all countries of the region, the presence of women in high-level and decision-making positions, especially in the Executive power, Justice, the private sector and unions, is still insufficient.

In the Andean region, one of the pending measures is the participation of women in political decisions and in the access to power. While all the countries in the region have quota laws for parliaments, the formal acknowledgement of quotas does not translate into positions for women.⁶⁵ In the Southern Cone and Brazil, despite low participation, data show a progressive increase in the participation of women in the State.⁶⁶ There are quota laws⁶⁷ in all the countries of Central America, except for El Salvador and Nicaragua, which have single governing parties that do not consider this issue adequately. Experience shows that the formal acknowledgement of quota laws does not necessarily translate into a similar number of parliamentary seats or in decision-making influence.⁶⁸ In the Caribbean, although women

account for most of the voters and workers in political parties, they do not become candidates or political representatives. Only 80 out of 543 elected representatives are women.⁶⁹ In the Dominican Republic, although there is a quota law, only 10% of Senate seats belong to women and 21% in the House of Representatives.

Women politicians and those in women's movements have mobilized to address the prevailing under-representation of women in the Executive and Legislative powers, demanding the adoption of positive measures to revert this, on the basis of international agreements and experiences in other countries of the continent that have been successful in the implementation of quota laws. However, the political system, especially unions and the private sector are reluctant to adopt measures of equality between women and men, which is one of the challenges to achieving more equal participation.⁷⁰ Another challenge is confronting the sexual and political harassment that women in decision-making positions suffer, particularly in local and provincial governments.

The situation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women is totally invisible within political decisions. Their cultural values and practices are constantly questioned, often due to their liberal character, which impedes their full exercise.⁷¹

In summary, the lack of financial resources provided by States and Governments, as well as changes in the orientation of cooperation due to the fact that the countries of the region are middle-income, renders the systematic processes of equality policies unsustainable in the middle and long term. This demonstrates the lack of political will of the States, not only in the design of public policies, but also in their implementation to achieve a real impact in the lives of women.⁷²

⁶³ SISTREN Theatre Collective. The Accomplishment of the Brasilia Consensus in Latin America and the Caribbean, an Analysis by Civil Society. Jamaica, October, 2013.

⁶⁴ CEPAL. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, El Progreso de América Latina y el Caribe hacia los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Desafíos para Lograrlos con Equidad, 2010.

⁶⁵ Díaz, W.P., Gamarrá, K.U., García, B.Q., García-Prince, E., Mauleón, C.O. Evaluación del Cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia, Documento Subregional Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela, October 2013.

⁶⁶ Comandini, T.H. et al., 2013.

⁶⁷ Plácido, E. C. México en el cumplimiento de los ODM hacia 2015, 2014.

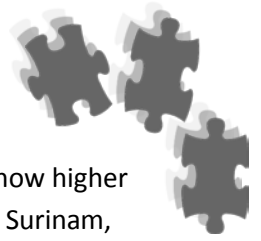
⁶⁸ Rossette, L.C. y otros, 2013.

⁶⁹ SISTREN Theatre Collective and Women's Resource & Outreach Centre. "Wheel And Come Again": Assessing the Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals 2015, Caribbean Regional Report, February 2014.

⁷⁰ Bianco, M. et al., 2013.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.



MATERNAL HEALTH

This is one of the goals with the lowest degree of fulfillment in most of the countries in the region.

Therefore, it implies one of the main challenges for most of the countries, as ECLAC clearly states.⁷³

Goal 5a- reduction of maternal mortality ratio by 75% will be very difficult to achieve. Although between 1995 and 2005 it declined, there is stagnation of the maternal mortality ratio and the number of deaths is alarming. ECLAC states that it is very difficult for the region to achieve the goal of reduction, which has also been denounced by women's groups and networks in the region.⁷⁴ MMR figures show great variation among the different countries of the region, which range from 630 per 100,000 live births in Haiti to 29 per 100,000 live births in Uruguay and 20 in Chile, with an average of 100 per 100,000 live births.⁷⁵ Although the MMR is an indicator on which it is difficult to rely due to the high degree of sub-registration of deaths and of live births, rates of MMR are higher among the poorest women and/or among those who experience discrimination, as in the case of indigenous women – which show higher rates than the rest of women⁷⁶-, the Afro-descendant, migrant, LGBT population, women living with HIV, women in situation of confinement, disabled women and adolescents. The lack of reliability in this indicator does not impede us from observing the high persisting trend in many countries, and in fact, its increase in some of them. Only five countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba and Uruguay have a MMR equal or less than 50 per 100,000

live births. The Caribbean countries show higher MMR than Latin America, while Haiti, Surinam, Guyana and Jamaica are among the countries with the highest MMR.⁷⁷ The lack of data or the lack of access to them by civil society and people in general prevents accurate evaluations of the evolution of those deaths, something women's organizations continue to denounce as women die, especially due to unsafe and clandestine abortion. In other countries of the region, the women's movement has been denouncing for years the unacceptable maternal mortality rate, in many cases due to unsafe abortions, the poor quality of health services, especially emergency obstetrics services and the difficulty to access high quality prenatal examinations and pregnancy, birth and post-natal services. According to CEPAL,⁷⁸ an important factor for reducing maternal mortality is birth attendance by a qualified professional. They do not, however, include intercultural policies that recognize traditional midwives and birth attendants, thereby overlooking traditional ancestral knowledge and women who utilize it. Clandestine abortions and related complications are a serious health problem in the region,⁷⁹ and abortion care is seriously restricted, though in most countries, except for Chile, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Suriname and Honduras, abortion is legal under certain circumstances. It has been demonstrated that laws that penalize abortion do not impede its practice, they only force women to seek clandestine abortions, rendering it unsafe and producing devastating effects on the health and lives of women. The poorest women are those who have the greatest

⁷³ Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio: desafíos para lograrlos con igualdad, CEPAL, 2013.

⁷⁴ Mexico en el cumplimiento de las ODM hacia 2015, CLADEM, Mx, February 2014; Special report for this evaluation, ECMIA y CHIRIPAQ, feb 2014; Cumplimiento de los ODM en Centroamérica y Caribe hispano, A. Balcarce y D. Wilson; Región Andina: cumplimiento de los ODM, ADC; Assessing the Progress Towards MDG 2015, Caribbean Regional Report, Sistren Theatre Collective & The women's resource & outreach Centre, feb 2014; Cumpliendo los ODM en Cono Sur y Brazil, FEIM, feb 2014. Informe alternativo para el examen de Chile ante Comité CEDAW, Corporación Humanas et al., septiembre 2012.

⁷⁵ CEPAL, 2013.

⁷⁶ Informe de ECMIA Enlace Continental de Mujeres indígenas de las Américas y CHIRIPAQ, 2014.

⁷⁷ Observatorio de Igualdad de Género, CEPAL, 2012

⁷⁸ CEPAL: Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. El Progreso de América Latina y el Caribe hacia los objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Desafíos para lograrlos con igualdad. Santiago de Chile, 2010.

⁷⁹ Frente Ecuatoriano por los Derechos Sexuales y Derechos Reproductivos, Coordinadora Juvenil por la Equidad de Género, Organización Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas (OEML), Centro de Promoción y Acción de la Mujer-Guayaquil, ACDemocracia, Azucena Soledispa, Gayne Villagómez. Informe Alternativo de Organizaciones de Mujeres para el Comité de los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales sobre la Situación de la Salud Sexual y Salud Reproductiva de las Mujeres en el Ecuador. Ecuador, 2011.

risk of being prosecuted.⁸⁰ **Non-punishable abortion** (i.e., legally permitted abortion) is not provided in health services in all the countries, such that the clandestine abortion rate remains high and has consequences that result in disease and death. For example, in Puerto Rico, although abortion is legal, it is a controlled service provided by private clinics and therefore not accessible. It is alarming that recent constitutional or Penal Code reforms, and other regulations, tend towards even greater restrictions to non-punishable abortion⁸¹ or to its elimination, while there is a marked lack of public policies aimed at ensuring access to legal abortion in the countries of the region. What makes this situation even worse is the fact that according to the WHO, on the basis of research and studies all over the world, with the current technology and economic growth registered in many countries, the situation does not translate into a decline in these deaths. Social and economic inequality in the region, considered the most unequal part of the world (ECLAC 2013), translates into very high risk of death or disease due to pregnancy, birth or puerperium among the poorest and most marginalized women. This is another serious problem that women's organizations have been claiming governments overlook by considering only the average country indicator instead of measuring the differences in the various population groups, especially those caused by poverty and difficulties in access, as was previously mentioned.

Goal 5b – achieve universal access to reproductive health – there is great variation in the countries of the region and difficulties in achieving reproductive health, thereby limiting access to sexual and reproductive rights. Its components are strongly linked to the maternal

mortality ratio and are in part responsible for its stagnation.

Restrictive laws in some countries of the region have impaired women and adolescent girls from enjoying their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Too often women, and especially adolescent girls, are denied sexual and reproductive information and health care. Laws requiring the consent of parents, spouses and/or medical practitioners that limit women's and adolescent girls' access to health services still exist. Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights is fundamental to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Employment discrimination based on pregnancy or motherhood is of particular concern in some countries in the region, as well as mandatory testing for pregnancy or HIV without consent. Both are clear violations of women's rights, in many cases performed by the State as employer.

Access to contraceptive methods improved in general, but there is still uneven and unequal access in the different population groups, as well as in the quality of contraceptive methods. The lack of gender perspective and of intercultural awareness affects the quality of outcomes. These data are not available in all the countries and not disaggregated by population group. In the entire region, rural, indigenous and tribal, Afro-descendant, migrant, LGBT, women living with HIV and adolescent women have the greatest difficulties to access and experience higher resistance at health services and care. Emergency hormonal contraception is the hardest method to access in most of the countries. Religious beliefs, lack of information on how it works, and prejudice and discrimination by health care providers are the main causes of lack of access.⁸²

⁸⁰ Kane, G., Galli, B. y Skuster, P. (2013). Cuando el aborto es un crimen: La amenaza para mujeres vulnerables en América Latina (segunda edición) Chapel Hill, Carolina del Norte: Ipas, available at: http://www.ipas.org/~media/Files/Ipas%20Publications/CRIMRPT2S13.ashx?utm_source=resource&utm_medium=meta&utm_campaign=CRIMRPT2S13

⁸¹ Región Andina, Cumplimiento de los ODM, ADC, R Rosero, feb 2014. Argentina, informe del Consenso de Brasilia, FEIM, oct 2013.

⁸² Encuesta Corporación Humanas, Chile 2011; Provisión de Anticoncepción de Emergencia en Sistema de salud Municipal de Chile 2011, Dides, C et al; Omisión e Indiferencia Derechos reproductivos en México, Gire, México 2013; Women's Link Worldwide. "Es Incomprensible la Prohibición de la Anticoncepción de Emergencia en Honduras," 26 de noviembre de 2009. Disponible en: http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/pdf_press/press_release_20091126_es.pdf

Adolescent pregnancy is very frequent in the region and adolescents experience significant inequalities in accessing sexual and reproductive health services. The persistent high fertility rate in adolescents 15-19 years old and resistance to its reduction is one of the challenges the countries of the region are facing. The lack of data and indicators on reproductive health in those younger than 15 years (10-14 years) does not permit the adoption of public policies to address the rise in adolescent pregnancy that is occurring in some countries, for example Argentina. A comparative study on the frequency in 2000 in relation to data available around 2010,⁸³ showed a trend towards a reduction in the rate of adolescent pregnancy in Brazil, Paraguay, Panama, Belize and Nicaragua, the latter showing the highest rate of the region, followed by Honduras, Ecuador, Belize and Guatemala. In Trinidad and Tobago, Bolivia, Uruguay, Venezuela, El Salvador and Honduras in this period there was a tendency towards increase. Pregnancy in adolescents is a complex reality linked to various aspects including a culture of early pregnancy present among certain groups of women, such as indigenous and rural women, along with early sexual relations and eroticization. These are stronger as a result of the lack of comprehensive sexuality education in the region and barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services, which maybe attributed to resistance and personal beliefs of health care providers. While most of the countries in the region do not have legal or regulatory restrictions related to information and provision of contraception to adolescents, youth and women's groups claim that in practice contraception is not provided and there are discriminatory practices in health services. Although adolescent pregnancy is evidenced in different sectors, it is higher in the poorest and most excluded sectors, perpetuating poverty and exclusion by preventing adolescents from continuing school and restricting access to

employment to less competitive and poorly paid tasks.

Prenatal care and birth care by professional personnel are factors that influence the quality of care and the level of risk of disease and death during pregnancy, birth and puerperium. In most of the countries of the region there is high pre-natal coverage, however, this does not translate into a decline in maternal morbi/mortality. This may be associated with a late start to prenatal visits, to the quality of services provided by insufficiently trained personnel, and/or because these services are considered routine, which means that many aspects of care may be overlooked. In 2003, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on the rights of indigenous people highlighted that in Mexico, the risk of death during childbirth is double for indigenous women.⁸⁴

An issue related to pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care is the application of interventions to prevent perinatal transmission of HIV and syphilis, which has been identified as a pending priority in the region by OPS. In 2012, UNAIDS estimated that in the region there were between 1,000 and 4,600 new infections in children who acquired the virus as a result of vertical transmission. Between 20% and 40% of women with HIV did not receive prophylactic treatment during pregnancy in that same year. In addition, Latin America and the Caribbean as a region has the highest rate of maternal syphilis^{85,86}.

Unmet family planning needs are hard to measure due to the lack of information in many countries of the region. In the Caribbean and countries such as Argentina and Chile there is little information. ECLAC states that even if most of the countries have improved the fulfillment of

⁸³ Observatorio de igualdad de género Informe Anual 2012, CEPAL.

⁸⁴ Inequidades: manifestaciones de la violencia estructural hacia las mujeres indígenas, FIMI, 2012.

⁸⁵ OPS. Guía clínica para la eliminación de la transmisión maternoinfantil del VIH y de la sífilis congénita en América Latina y el Caribe, 2010.

⁸⁶ UNAIDS. Informe de ONUSIDA sobre la epidemia mundial del sida, 2013.

family planning needs, the goal will not be achieved except in 5 of the 14 countries that register this data. At the same time, the gap between rural, indigenous, disabled and poor women persists and demonstrates the difficulties these women have in accessing sexual and reproductive rights and health, the resistance of health services to assist them and the difficulties in distribution these countries still face. The division that exists in the majority of the countries of the region between specialized HIV care and sexual and reproductive health services means that women living with HIV are disincentivized from using contraceptive methods from health services, which results in lower contraceptive coverage⁸⁷. The privatization of health services and the fee many of them charge undermine the fulfillment of family planning needs.

There is not sufficient support in the region for community mobilization and execution of public campaigns to disseminate and raise awareness on human rights and laws related to sexual and reproductive rights. This prevents collective understanding of human sexuality as a positive aspect of life, impeding a culture of acceptance, respect, non-discrimination and non-violence. To achieve this would involve the elimination of gender stereotypes and discrimination in relation to sexuality and reproduction. There is also a failure to raise awareness about the consequences and root causes of harmful practices, such as early and forced marriage; and to engage men and boys as positive agents of change for achieving gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the eradication of violence against women and girls.

⁸⁷ T Kendall and E. López-Urbe. Improving the HIV response for women in Latin America: Barriers to integrated advocacy for sexual and reproductive health and rights. *Global Health Governance* 4(1), 2010.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Violence against women and girls is the main violation to women's human rights, as recognized by the United Nations since the International Conference on Human Rights in 1993 in Vienna. Since then, there has been advancement in the acknowledgement of all the forms of violence women and girls suffer in the different spheres of their lives, just for being women. International recognition has not occurred at the same pace in the countries of our region, which still show delays in the adoption of public policies to address, investigate, punish and prevent violence.⁸⁸

Violence against women is the main barrier for women's, adolescents' and girls' equality in the region.⁸⁹ When the Millennium Development Goals were approved, inexplicably no target on violence against women was incorporated; therefore, countries are not held accountable for this issue or expected to report on related achievements and obstacles, as is the case with the MDGs.

This omission was an issue consistently raised by the women's movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, due to the high incidence of gender violence in the countries of the region and the lack of adequate responses related to its prevention, care, investigation, punishment and reparation.

The lack of statistics on cases of all forms of violence against women and girls, including femicide, is a common characteristic in all countries, because they lack consolidated registers that would allow the measurement and evaluation of the national impact of violence.⁹⁰

Where there exist general registers to record such data, as in the case of Peru and Chile, they

do not include all the forms of violence.⁹¹ There have not been examples of systematic data collection in the region that would offer the information necessary to track the diverse institutional responses available to respond to violence, or to integrate possible interventions from the health sector, social services, or police and judicial action. There is also not sufficient empirical research to illuminate the critical issues related to these persistent problems.⁹²

The problem of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, is increasing in most of the countries of the region, as well as the seriousness and magnitude of the injuries, resulting in a rise in femicides. While the lack of a unique register in the countries means a lack of information on the magnitude of violence against women and an inability to evaluate applied public policies, partial studies and registers show increases in violence. Femicide is a serious problem in the region due to its alarming growth. Of the 25 countries with the highest femicide rates, more than half of them are in Latin America and the Caribbean.⁹³ The 14 countries with the highest rates in the region are: Jamaica, Antilles, Bahamas and Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize in Central America and Guyana, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil and Ecuador in South America.^{94,95} Countries with militarized contexts and armed conflicts have more femicides.⁹⁶ In Chile in 2008, a study of victimization showed

⁹¹ Corporación Humanas Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género, Corporación DOMOS, Fundación Instituto de la Mujeres, CEDEM, Observatorio Ciudadano, Observatorio Género y Equidad, CEM, Observatorio de Equidad de Género en la Salud-Chile, Red Chilena contra la Violencia hacia las Mujeres (September 2012), "Informe Alternativo para el Examen del Estado de Chile ante el Comité CEDAW en su 53ª Sesión".

⁹² Gherardi, N. "La violencia contra las mujeres en la región", in Almérás and Carlderón Magaña (coordinators). *Si no se cuenta, no cuenta: información sobre la violencia contra las mujeres*. Santiago de Chile, Cuadernos de la CEPAL 2012.

⁹³ "Femicide a Global problem" Small Arms Survey (2012)

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Suriname also has a very high rate of femicide. In 2012, more than half of all murders (54%) were women killed by their intimate partner. UNFPA: ICPD, Suriname 2012. Fact Sheets.

⁹⁶ "Crimen, Violencia y Desarrollo, tendencias y políticas en el Caribe", World Bank, 2007

⁸⁸ El Segundo Informe Hemisférico correspondiente a la evaluación multilateral que revisa el cumplimiento de la Convención de Belém do Pará da cuenta de este avance dispar. MESECVI, 2012.

⁸⁹ NGO CSW Outcome Document for LAC: An open discussion paper. February 2013.

⁹⁰ Idem 1

that one in every three women has experienced violence by an intimate partner.⁹⁷ In the Caribbean, UNICEF and other UN agencies and women's organizations urge that it be treated as a pandemic and note that such violence has a debilitating impact on society. In other countries of Central America, as well as in most of the region, persisting gender stereotypes translate into the naturalization of violence against women and girls, which justifies these acts and therefore, generates impunity. Tolerance by security forces and governmental stakeholders translates into a lack of effective protection of victims, who are blamed for the violence they experience. There is a lack of protocols for following up on complaints, which would enable the prevention of future acts of violence, many of which are femicides. The justification of the aggressors, negligence and lack of punishment and impunity perpetuate violence against women and girls. In Nicaragua, only one of every four people responsible for a femicide goes to prison; in Guatemala 2% of the cases are solved and few people are convicted.⁹⁸ There are groups of women that are more affected by violence due to the serious discrimination they suffer, which makes them more vulnerable to experiencing violence, such as disabled, migrant, Afro-descendant, indigenous women, women sex workers, women living with HIV and women with different sexual identities, among others.

Violence against women is a structural problem based on discrimination related to sex, race, ethnicity, age, sexual preference, and other factors, including poverty. These factors interact, generating a continuum comprised of diverse manifestations and types of violence.

Violence against indigenous women must be analyzed in a way that accounts for the intersections of three areas: human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, and women's rights. Indigenous women suffer violence doubly because they not only suffer individual violence,

but also collective or structural violence to which indigenous peoples are subject. Unfortunately, there are few studies that analyze violence against indigenous women and there are even fewer studies carried out by indigenous women themselves.⁹⁹ For indigenous women, repression and militarization of their territories means rape, torture, forced displacement, arbitrary imprisonment, lack of access to justice and trauma.¹⁰⁰ Afro-descendant women also suffer more violence due to structural violence on the basis of their ethnic group or race.¹⁰¹

Although many countries have laws that consider violence comprehensively, there are still many in which the legislation only refers to violence within the family. There are some cases, such as in Peru, where domestic violence is considered in the legal framework, but is not considered a criminal offense, thereby sanctioning the severity of the injury rather than the violence itself, which generates impunity. Unfortunately, having broad and comprehensive laws, such as in Mexico and Argentina, is not enough because they are not comprehensively implemented and there are structural limitations, such as budget shortages. The response of public policies is limited to victim care and in general does not include prevention policies. There is also a lack of trained personnel in the judicial arena, in the security forces, in health services and the areas of care for women victims of violence, which limits their efficacy.

Women's access to justice is a pending debt in most of the countries. There is a noted lack of gender perspective in personnel charged with the administration of justice, which causes distortions in the legal response that are of great damage to the women who are not protected. Additionally, the absence of sustained prevention campaigns throughout the region aimed at key

⁹⁹ Inequidades: manifestación de la violencia estructural hacia las mujeres indígenas, FIMI, 2012

¹⁰⁰ Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de América "Violencia y mujeres indígenas". Enero 2013 presentado en CSW 57.

¹⁰¹ "Durban+10: Situaciones de los derechos humanos de las mujeres afrodescendientes de la Región América Latina y Caribe", Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora, 2011.

⁹⁷ Encuesta nacional de Victimización, Min. Del Interior, 2008

⁹⁸ Informe Nonestral de Femicidios, Red de Mujeres contra la Violencia. Nicaragua 2012.

actors, such as policy-makers, parliamentarians, law enforcement, educators, health providers, employers and the private sector, and journalists, among others, who have important roles to play in creating an enabling environment for the equal protection and enjoyment of women's and girls' human rights also contributes to this precarious situation.

In various countries of the region, laws have been passed that incorporate femicide in criminal law, in distinct ways,¹⁰² and introduce specific sanctions, in general with penalties that are more severe than for simple homicide. The countries that have in some way included femicide as a particular kind of murder perpetrated against women are Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México DF, Nicaragua, Panamá, Peru, Venezuela.¹⁰³ This is a recent effort that does not include information that could enable the tracking of eventual progress in the sanctioning of femicide, in terms of advances in its reparation and prevention.

In addition, countries in the region do not have comprehensive and efficient public policies to address all the health consequences, including the physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health consequences, of violence against women and girls. This entails providing accessible health-care services that are responsive to trauma and include affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicines, first line support, treatment of injuries and mental health care, emergency contraception, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The lack of training for medical professionals to effectively identify and treat women subjected to

violence. Forensic doctors jeopardize the quality of attention.

Sexual violence is a form of violence that is difficult to incorporate when it occurs within marriage. The high frequency of this type of violence against women living with HIV suggests the need for HIV prevention protocols in the event of all types of violence, especially rape, as well as pregnancy prevention. Violence constitutes both a cause and a consequence of HIV; it is therefore necessary to develop specific protocols related to the care of women living with HIV. Displaced women suffer much more violence, whether the displacement is the result of armed conflicts, such as in Colombia¹⁰⁴ or natural disaster, such as in Haiti.¹⁰⁵

Violence against women is also related to the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights. In many countries of the region, abortion is penalized in cases of rape, which doubly victimizes women by obligating them to continue a forced pregnancy.

According to recent studies conducted in some of the countries,¹⁰⁶ violence against women and girls associated with new communication technologies include media violence and also violence through the Internet. This phenomenon is not yet fully regulated in the countries of the region and there are not sufficient background studies and research.

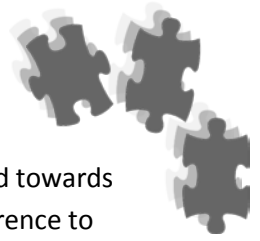
¹⁰² In some cases, the Penal Code has been reformed to incorporate femicide as a specific crime or as an aggravated form of homicide, while in other cases policies have been approved through special laws.

¹⁰³ The legal texts may be accessed through the Observatory of Gender Equality of CEPAL.

¹⁰⁴ Las metas del Milenio y la Igualdad de Género – Caso Colombia. CEPAL 2003.

¹⁰⁵ MSF (2007), in Kong, J.Y. (2011) "The Hidden Epidemic: VAW in Haiti)

¹⁰⁶ Voces desde espacios digitales: violencia contra mujeres asociada a tecnología. APC 2011



HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The serious problem of human trafficking, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation, was another issue not included in the MDGs and one of great magnitude in our region that affects women, adolescents and girls. The impossibility of overcoming poverty, inequality and unemployment in the countries of our region, as well as corruption, has favored the proliferation of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. This situation has been strengthened by the impunity and collusion of governmental authorities with international trafficking networks, which led to their greater presence. These networks act with great impunity. On the other hand, the weakness and corruption of judicial officials, who are often linked to the above-mentioned networks, complete the vicious circle in which thousands of young women and men and boys and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean are victims of human trafficking in all its forms, but especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Thailand, Brazil, Philippines and Dominican Republic are the four countries with the highest percentage of victims.¹⁰⁷ According to a UNODC report,¹⁰⁸ human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation increased in 2007-2010 compared to 2003-2006, especially among girls. In 2009, the percentage of women victims was 59% and for girls 17%, while in men it was 27% and boys 10%. In the region, 27% of trafficked women are under 18 years old. The extent of the problem of human trafficking is difficult to determine due to a lack of registers, but particularly because it is obscured by the demand for prostitution. In Dominican Republic, there are data from different studies, most of them from women's organizations. Central American countries also show high rates of trafficked women.

Although many countries have passed laws to incorporate actions and punishment for human

trafficking, most of them are oriented towards punishment, and there is scarce reference to protection or assistance for victims and prevention.¹⁰⁹ It is worth mentioning that despite this, there was mild progress in the assignment of prison sentences. UNDOC states that from the 132 countries studied, in 16% of them no sentence was pronounced. This reinforces what was previously said regarding impunity and collusion between traffickers and government, judicial officials and security forces.

A study carried out by UNICEF and the Argentine government defines "human trafficking" as "a form of modern enslavement."¹¹⁰ Given that human trafficking is not an isolated crime, but is related to others, including violence against women, labor exploitation, drug trade and abuse, and sex trade, approaches for combating it should be comprehensive. In the case of sexual exploitation, it is one of the most extreme forms of violence. Poverty is the factor that fuels human trafficking to the greatest extent. In order to tackle this problem, significant collaboration between countries in the region and destination countries where women and girls are taken is needed.

¹⁰⁷ Trata de personas, particularmente mujeres en Centroamérica y República Dominicana, Managua 2012.

¹⁰⁸ Estudio Mundial de la Trata de Personas, UNODC, 2012

¹⁰⁹ "Beijing+15. Igualdad de género: de las palabras a los hechos". FEIM/ONU Mujeres. 2012. "Comunicación Conjunta para Examen Periódico Universal. Los derechos sexuales y los derechos reproductivos", FEIM y otros. Argentina 2012. "El cumplimiento del Consenso de Brasilia en Argentina. Análisis de la sociedad civil". FEIM. 2013.

¹¹⁰ Trata de Personas: una forma de esclavitud moderna. UNICEF y Ministerio de Derechos Humanos y Justicia, Argentina 2012.

ANNEX



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 WOMENPEACEMAKER NETWORK
 WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (WGNRR)

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GONZÁLEZ ARIAS ROSARIO, MÉXICO	WONG ALEXANDRINA, ANTIGUA



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