



The Buenos Aires Commitment and its contribution to multilateralism

Side Event - 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Organized by the Government of Argentina in collaboration with UN Women and ECLAC

17 March 2023

3pm to 4:15 pm

Conference Room 2 – Conference Building – UN Secretariat in New York

BACKGROUND

Gender inequality has been recognized through different agreements that make up the Regional Gender Agenda as a historical and structural feature of the region, associated with decades of concentration of wealth, environmental deterioration and the precarization of women and girls' living conditions, especially those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those living in poverty, girls, adolescents, young and older women, indigenous women, Afrodescendent women, rural women, women with disabilities, women deprived of their liberty, those living with HIV, migrant and refugee women, as well as LGBTI+ people, among others. Gender inequality in the region is manifested in four structural challenges: socio-economic inequality and poverty in contexts of exclusionary growth; patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns; the sexual division of labour and the unjust social organization of care; and in the concentration of power and hierarchical relations within the public sphere. These mutually reinforcing challenges generate complex socio-economic and cultural systems and beliefs that hinder and reduce the scope of policies for gender equality and women's autonomy¹.

On the other hand, Latin America and the Caribbean stands out as the only region in the world where, for 45 years, governments, international organizations and civil society organizations, particularly women's and feminist organizations, have met at the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to identify progress and challenges in guaranteeing women's rights and autonomy and achieving gender equality. The agreements and commitments made during the 45 years of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean nourish the Regional Gender Agenda, a profound, ambitious, and comprehensive roadmap.

The Buenos Aires Commitment adopted at the XV Regional Conference in November 2022, calls for a transition to a new development pattern that prioritizes the sustainability of life and the planet, recognizes the right to care as part of the human rights fundamental to the well-being of the population

¹ See the *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*, (LC/CRM.13/5) Santiago, Chile. Available online at: <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/41013-montevideo-strategy-implementation-regional-gender-agenda-within-sustainable>



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as a whole, guarantees the rights of people in need of care, as well as the rights of those who provide care. The Buenos Aires Commitment sets out key agreements to address the structural causes of gender inequality, to achieve a transformative recovery with gender equality oriented towards the sustainability of life, and transition towards a care society.

The Government of Argentina, together with the Government of Mexico, presented an international declaration at the 48th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the centrality of care with the aim of consolidating the care agenda at the international level. This initiative, which was supported by 48 countries, established for the first time the issue of care in the main global human rights forum. Previously, within the framework of the Generation Equality Forum, the Government of Mexico, through the National Institute of Women (Inmujeres), and UN Women launched the Global Alliance for Care, a collective effort to mobilize global action by diverse strategic actors: governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other strategic partners to transform culture and reduce inequalities, ensuring the recognition, redistribution and reduction of domestic and care work among co-responsible actors, as well as the remuneration and recognition of care workers to accelerate an equitable post-COVID-19 economic recovery, by implementing and scaling up specific commitments and actions on care.

In the current context of cascading international crises, the growing challenges posed by the new digital era, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and the high level of public debt in many countries in the region, in addition to deepening the structural challenges of gender inequality, threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, and in the framework of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), the agreements reached in the Buenos Aires Commitment, approved by the member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022, take on special relevance.

The Buenos Aires Commitment proposes a way forward towards a care society, with agreements in innovative areas for a transformative recovery with gender equality and sustainability. It recognizes care as a need, a job and a right of people to care, to be cared for and to exercise self-care, and calls for the promotion of measures to overcome the sexual division of labour and to move towards a fair social organization of care, within the framework of a new development pattern that promotes gender equality in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In the Buenos Aires Commitment, countries agree to:

- Adopt regulatory frameworks that guarantee the right to care through the implementation of comprehensive care policies and systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective;



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- Define care as a right to provide and receive care and to exercise self-care on the basis of equality, universality and social and gender co-responsibility. In this sense, care is a responsibility that must be shared by society, families, the private sector and the State;
- Design, implement and evaluate macroeconomic policies, particularly fiscal policies (revenue, expenditure and investment), from the perspective of gender equality and human rights in order to safeguard the progress achieved and mobilize the maximum available resources with a view to increasing sustainable public investment over time in care policies and infrastructure, to ensure universal access to affordable and quality care services;
- Encourage subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation programmes through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation modalities, as well as between national machineries for the advancement of women, that promote gender equality, women's autonomy, the prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence against women, including human smuggling and trafficking, particularly of women and girls, and the right to care;
- Commend the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the joint work carried out within the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a regional forum for discussing and building the regional gender equality agenda ahead of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and request the Chair of the Conference to convey the outcomes of this subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the subsequent sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

In this context, and in the framework of the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67), the Government of the Republic of Argentina, in its capacity as Chair of the Presiding Officers elected at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (November, 2022), together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as Secretariat of the Conference, and in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), are organizing the side event "The Buenos Aires Commitment and its contribution to multilateralism", with the objective of presenting this intergovernmental agreement as a contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to the deliberations of the CSW67 at the United Nations.

PROGRAMME - 17 MARCH 2023

Time (NY - PM)	Description
03:00 – 03:10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>María del Carmen Squeff, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina to the UN</p>



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03:10 – 04:15

Introduction and moderation: Ana Güzmes García, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC

The Buenos Aires Commitment and its contribution to multilateralism

María Noel Vaeza, Director of the UN Women Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean

Nadine Gasman, President of the National Institute of Women of Mexico

Sergia Galván, feminist activist and member of the Board of Directors of the Regional Fund in Support of Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements in Latin America and the Caribbean

Inga Rhonda King, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations in New York (TBC)

Verónica Montúfar, Gender Equality Officer, Public Services International

Marita Cristina Perceval, Special Representative for Feminist Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina