



Side Event – XIII Regional Conference on Women LAC: “Transforming the economies to realize women’s rights in Latin America and the Caribbean”

Uruguay, October 25-28th, 2016

Context

In a context of economic slowdown, women’s economic empowerment in Latin America is at risk. Action needs to be taken to protect gains achieved and to continue opening spaces for women in the economy. UN Women is actively engaged in this effort. In 2016, the entity has undertaken research to deepen the understanding about how to protect gender equality gains from economic slowdown, and how to overcome persistent bottlenecks in women’s economic empowerment.

The Latin America and Caribbean Report “Women’s economic empowerment in challenging times” includes an assessment of progress in improving gender equality in the last 20 years in the area of women’s economic empowerment and seeks to identify the processes that contribute more significantly to the current situation. Most notably, it brings back a structural approach to gender transformation. Based on the identification of the different varieties of Gender Regimes in Latin America, the report addresses the issue of how to place gender concerns into the wider policy level. It looks into the bottlenecks limiting women’s economic empowerment and how these are strongly influenced by major inequalities in income and social conditions, including patriarchal regimes and class, ethnic and geographical inequalities. To meet these challenges, the report proposes actions in the field of macroeconomic policies to soften the impact of the economic downturn and to create long term conditions for women’s

economic empowerment; provision of quality care services; and means of sustaining investments in gender-responsive social protection, among others.

The elaboration of the report has been undertaken in parallel to the work of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment convened in the month of March to place women's economic empowerment at the top of the global agenda and accelerate progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The HLP seeks to draw attention to the challenges faced by the most disadvantaged women, to bring informal work from the margins to the mainstream, to highlight how discriminatory laws limit choice and to shed light on the centrality of unpaid work and care, which is one of the most pervasive and significant barriers to women's economic empowerment.

The preliminary research and findings of the Latin America and Caribbean Report fed into the deliberations of participants attending the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Consultation convened by the High Level Panel in San José Costa Rica in July, allowing also to validate and enrich the findings of the LAC report with the views of participants from across the region.

The High Level Panel presented its first set of recommendations last September.

After six months of fact finding, sharing of best practices and consulting around the world, The Side Event will be an opportunity to present the findings of the report and to look into the recommendations of the High Level Panel through a regional lens.

Objective

To present the results of the research and recommendations of the Progress Report Companion for LAC on Women's Economic Empowerment and discuss its findings and potential to advance the recent recommendations of the SG High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and relevant work on the topic developed by key actors and organizations in the region.

Along with the comments and insights of a group of highly qualified presenters and commentators, the Side Event is an opportunity to discuss with diverse sectors such as government officials, feminist and women's organizations, civil society leaders, policy makers and academia participating in the Conference of Women future lines of action in the field of women's economic empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Format and panelists

(90 minutes, evening event)

Agenda

1:00-1:15 Lunch Break

Presentations

Moderator: Mrs. Luiza Carvalho, UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean

1:15-1:20 Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Under Secretary General and UN Women Executive Deputy Director - Welcome and Opening (5')

1:20-1:35 Ms. Juliana Martínez - Presentation of Progress Report (-15')

1:35-1:45 Ms. Alejandra Mora, Minister of Gender Affairs of Costa Rica – Presentation of results of the recommendations of the HLP WEE Report (10')

1:45- 1:50 Mr. Ernesto Murro, Minister of Work and Social Security – Uruguay care system: A good practice to women's economic empowerment (-5')

1:50- 1:55 Mr. José Carrera, Vice-President, Social Development, Latin America Development Bank CAF – comments on how the banking sector supports women's economic empowerment - 5')

1:55-2:00 Ms. Keiko Nowacka, Gender Coordinator, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD- comments on how international organizations support the women's economic empowerment agenda (-5')

2:00-2:05 Ms. María Nieves Rico, Director, Gender Affairs Division, ECLAC – comments on how ECLAC support the women's economic empowerment agenda (-5')

2:05-2:25 Discussion (20')

2:25- 2:30 Luiza Carvalho, UN Women Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean - Closing remarks (5')

Language

Spanish with simultaneous translation into English