

San Salvador Declaration
of Latin American and Caribbean countries on eliminating violence
against women, the priority theme of the 57th session of the
Commission on the Status of Women

Declaration of National Women's Machineries in Latin America and the Caribbean for the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

San Salvador, El Salvador
February 11th 2013

We, the Ministers and High Level Authorities responsible for public policy in favor of the rights and empowerment of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in the city of San Salvador on February 11th 2013, by the invitation of UN Women and the Government of El Salvador for a regional consultation prior to 57^o Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in order to facilitate a dialogue and a guide of recommendations in the "Agreed Conclusions", to identify the critical issues we face in the region for the elimination of violence against women and girls in all its dimensions;

Recalling, that the CSW plays a key role in monitoring, review and evaluation of the progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action at all levels, and that in our region, are the intergovernmental regional and subregional organizations to advance women, are those which guaranteeing compliance with the commitments that governments take in the CSW;

We reaffirm our commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol as an instrument of international interest; with the Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995), the international commitments agreed in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its key actions; with the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Para 1994), with the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brasilia 2010), with the San Jose Declaration on Economic and Political Empowerment of Women in the Americas, adopted at the Thirty-Sixth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women, (Costa Rica 2012); with other international legal instruments and resolutions in favor of human rights of women and their fundamental freedoms; and the observance to the dictates, on the concluding observations and general comments to the States by the Committees which integrates machinery treaties, in this area;

We recognize and appreciate the efforts of the international community in creating intergovernmental mechanisms for assessment and monitoring of Treaties and

international instruments of protection and prevention of violence and the role of the United Nations System, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, in strengthening these mechanisms;

As well,

Considering that the violence against women is an affront to human dignity and a violation of human rights;

We reaffirm, that violence against women in all stages of life is a phenomenon that persists in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and, that the different forms and expressions of violence preclude their individual development, undermine their rights and freedoms, prevent full development of their capacities and physical autonomy; and limit public, economic, social and political participation, in our societies;

We recognize that femicide/ violent death of women associated with gender, are problems of increasing magnitude in the region, although most countries have advanced and comprehensive legal framework on violence against women, the reality expressed in the high rates of crimes against women based on gender, including human trafficking, the violence against migrant women, as well as the "normalization" of violence against women in some areas of society, together with the deficiency justice access and a comprehensive and forceful government response, unfortunately results in the existence of serious difficulties in implementing these laws and alarming levels of impunity that put Latin American and Caribbean women in situations of vulnerability and insecurity.

Considering, the importance of the Secretary General's Global Campaign: "Unite to end violence against women", and reaffirming our commitment to the fulfillment of its five objectives;

Considering the magnitude of this phenomenon and its impact on the lives of millions of women and girls in Latin America and Caribbean, and recognizing that the issue of the 57th Session of the CSW will be referred to the "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" is an opportunity for governments to adopt policies and actions and recognize the need to adjust the institutional conditions and the necessary resources to implement the agreed measurable commitments in terms of prevention, care, protection, access to justice and elimination of impunity, and full compensation to ensure access to a life free of violence for women in all life stages.

WE DECLARE:

Our commitment to adopt all necessary measures to strengthen national institutions, policies, plans and programs from a multi-sectoral and inter-agency committed to the elimination of gender-based violence against women and girls, including prevention, care, protection, punishment, reparation and rehabilitation and access to justice; that ensure women and girls access to a life free of violence in terms of justice and security, and respect to women dignity, their rights and fundamental freedoms;

We request the CSW that includes the following recommendations under the Agreed Conclusions:

Urge States to further strengthen the important role of national mechanism for the advancement of women, that should be located at the highest possible levels of government and with adequate financial and technical resources to ensure the implementation of legislation as well as administrative or other measures, to ensure that all programs and government budgets have incorporated gender perspectives in order to eliminate inequalities in law and in fact that are still affecting the full realization of the rights of women and girls and fundamental freedoms;

1. Systems for prevention to women and girls who face violence

1. Apply prevention strategies to gender violence against women and girls, in a comprehensive and coordinated way, and incorporated transversely into policies and programs related to education, employment, public health, - including sexual and reproductive health-, reproductive rights, justice and security, the poverty eradication, development and security, among others; based on a framework of human rights and also involving civil society and women's organizations in their implementation.
2. Adopt comprehensive security policies that provide for citizen security of women in public spaces, with a focus on human rights from urban planning and providing the creation of safe cities with transit systems safe, street lighting, schools and safe workplaces;
3. Promote and strengthen the autonomy and economic empowerment of women, as a way to reduce vulnerability to violence and their economic dependence within violent relationships;
4. Encourage the media and opinion to implement diffusion mechanisms aimed at reducing the impunity of crimes of gender violence, to promote the non-use of the stereotypical image of women and non-discrimination, and the use of an appropriate gender language;
5. Encourage a culture of inclusion and respect that eliminates prejudice, stereotypes, and sexist language habits, and take action in the education sector to ensure this;
6. Institutionalize the participation of civil society and social movements organized communities in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national plans of violence against women, through the mechanisms to consider the most appropriate, such as participation in high-level sessions, thematic forums, and comprehensive consultation process, between others,
7. Adopt specific policies to prevent, attend and eradicate violence against women in

national security strategies, with a focus on transnational organized crime, gangs, drug trafficking, women and girls kidnapping, domestic violence and others,

2. Systems of care for women and girls who face violence

1. Establish comprehensive and multisectoral services which respond to all forms of violence against women in all age stages, including supportive care measures in the justice and police sector, legal aid and counseling, health services including access to all services on sexual and reproductive health at all levels and with the support of all available technologies, social and psychological support, hotlines and specialized services for children who are in shelters, as well as care and support until recovery;
2. Ensuring access to services for all women in all age stages, living in rural or marginalized areas or those that face different forms of discrimination, such as disabilities, living with a chronic disease, including HIV/AIDS, indigenous women, Afro-descent women and migrant women;
3. Adopt effective measures and actions from quality services and multisectoral responses to prevent, to attend women that face violence and are victims and survivors, and eliminate the effects of gender-based violence against women, within a framework of intercultural perspective comprehensive approach to cycle of life, and based on a rights approach on a nondiscriminatory basis;

3. Legal Frameworks

1. Ensure the approval of national legal frameworks and frameworks with international human rights standards, recognizing in them, the human rights of women and the right of women to live free of violence;
2. Punish any form of violence against women and to ensure that the justice system count with rules, procedures and protocols to ensure the protection, investigation, punishment. reparation and rehabilitation of victims;
3. Set budgets to ensure the protection, care and repair of women suffering violence, and the application of the laws that benefit;
4. Adopt laws to punish femicide/ violent death of women associated with gender in both the private and the public sector, and establish mechanisms to monitor them by judges and prosecutors;
5. Criminalize sexual violence, sexual violence within marriage or cohabiting and review the rules of criminal procedure to remove the obstacles that might prevent women from obtaining effective justice in these cases;
6. Take steps to ensure emergency prophylaxis treatment for HIV / AIDS and

other sexually transmitted diseases in the public health services and the free distribution of emergency contraception, especially in cases of sexual violence, in countries that allow it.

4. Access to justice within a framework of human rights

1. Ensure access to justice for women, ensuring personnel to care for victims and their cases at all stages of proceedings;
2. Ensure that security measures are expeditious and effective in all cases of domestic violence against women and monitor the implementation process to take corrective action and / or appropriate sanction;
3. Strengthen the training and specialization of the judiciary, police and law enforcement, in respect of addressing gender-based violence against women;
4. Encourage consolidation of international jurisprudence, and the standards in protection subject and best practices;
5. Promote the standardization of protocols, manuals, research ministerial criteria, expert services and provision of justice to properly investigate all crimes related to the disappearance, sexual violence and femicide of women/violent death of women associated with gender, according to international standards and with a view gender and rights approach.

5. Statistics, records and accountability

1. Set records in the organs that receive the complaints in courts and prosecutors' offices and health services, to provide reliable data on the extent of violence against women, preserving the privacy of the victims;
2. Implement in the police records and the judiciary to take a statistic of femicide/violent death of women associated with gender and all forms of gender violence containing data disaggregated by age, race, marital status and geographic location in relation to the aggressor.
3. Taking into account the "*Guidelines for the production of statistics on violence against women*", develop and implement systematic and coordinated collection of data at national and regional level, with indicators on the different forms of gender based violence, in order to underpin assessments of the impact of interventions and formulating comprehensive policies and prevention, protection measures care, treatment, punishment, reparation and rehabilitation.

6. Agenda Post 2015

1. Ensure that the development agenda post 2015, the elimination of violence against

women and girls in all its dimensions is considered as ethical and democratic issue, including indicators that measure the empowerment and substantive equality of women to live a life free of violence.

In an effort to help strengthen the position of our region of Latin America and the Caribbean during the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we are committed to moving the consensus expressed in this statement to our respective Chancelleries.

Adopted in San Salvador, El Salvador, on February 11th 2013.