

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TOWARDS BEIJING + 25

Recommendations from  
the feminist agenda for  
social transformation



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## **Latin America and the Caribbean towards Beijing + 25**

### **Recommendations from the feminist agenda for social transformation**

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## PRESENTATION

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China, and it brought about the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), which has been considered the roadmap for women's human rights. The BPfA established strategic objectives and actions for governments, civil society and private actors across twelve critical areas concerning inequality: 1) poverty, 2) education and training, 3) health, 4) violence, 5) armed conflict, 6) the economy, 7) power and decision making, 8) institutional mechanisms, 9) human rights, 10) the media, 11) the environment, and 12) the girl child.

Twenty-five years after the adoption of the BPfA, the achievements are significant; however, there is still a long way to go to ensure that women and girls enjoy a dignified life in a world free of violence. Apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, the multiple crises we are currently facing make it even more urgent to advance a feminist agenda aimed at eradicating social inequalities and modeling a new approach to politics.

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF), a global meeting convened from March to June 2021 by UN Women and co-chaired by the Mexican and French governments, seeks to take stock of the progress and challenges towards gender equality in the world. As part of the GEF, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and three of its regional projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) organized three regional workshops to develop and discuss recommendations from the feminist agenda, in three key areas for the future of the region: the care economy, social-ecological transformation, and peace building.

- Workshop 1: Care at the center of regional politics
- Workshop 2: The Escazú Agreement and the feminist environmental agenda in LAC
- Workshop 3: The experience of the Peace Agreement in Colombia. Recommendations for the gender, peace, and security agenda

The recommendations developed during March-2021 workshops were presented to the GEF to contribute to the Latin American feminist agenda and social transformation.

March 2021



## WORKSHOP 1

# CARE AT THE CENTER OF REGIONAL POLITICS

**Recommendations  
from Civil Society  
Organizations of LAC**



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**T**he discussion and politicization of care, understood as the activities and relationships that make it possible to sustain human and natural life, has escalated considerably in the last year. The pandemic and its consequent health crisis, the existing ecological, economic and political crises—all of which have worsened—, and the care and social-reproduction crises currently affecting Latin America and the Caribbean are being analyzed through the lens of gender, in which the debate on care is vital. In 2020, care was discussed in public and household settings, perhaps as never before.

The pandemic, and the social and political management of it, has highlighted the centrality of care in sustaining life, has increased the need for care, and has exposed the inability of most states to manage the situation while guaranteeing the rights of all people. Moreover, it has confirmed the unjust social arrangements that affect specific groups in a differential manner: women, migrants, racialized individuals, transsexual and transgender women, sex workers, domestic workers, and other groups.

The pandemic does not discriminate, inequalities do. This was an early and evident conclusion from 2020. Indeed, inequalities are expressing themselves in their upmost clarity and worsening at an accelerated rate.

In the Social Panorama of Latin American 2021 (corresponding to its 2020 analysis), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reports that, due to the pandemic, the unemployment rate in the region may have reached nearly 15.2% for women and 12.3% for men by the end of 2020, compared to 9.6% and 7.1% in 2019, respectively. It is

also projected that the number of women living in poverty could reach 118 million.

In this scenario, several aspects of care are dominant: the work of caregiving, its requirements, and its inequitable and unfair organization both domestically and socially, as it relates to co-responsible actors (the State, the family, the market, and the communities). Care is not only a need and a right, but also a job; it has costs, takes time, and adds value. The way in which care is organized significantly impacts the likelihood of economic autonomy and human interdependence under fair conditions.

In the absence of sufficient economic resources and quality government services, domestic and caregiving tasks undertaken by women on an unpaid basis are the main reason for the persistence of the gender gap in the labor market. About 60% of women in households with children under 15 years of age state that they do not participate in the labor market because of family responsibilities. When there are no children in the household and for the same age group, this figure is close to 18%. Women across the region spend three times as much time providing unpaid care and domestic work and have less economic autonomy. Nearly one in three Latin American women report that they have no income of their own.

Meanwhile, paid domestic workers and caregivers (11.1% of employed women in the region) perform their work under highly precarious conditions of payment, rights, and organization.

All things considered, the costs of care are borne in the domestic sphere, in a feminized manner, wheth-

er paid or unpaid. At the same time, the profits that this ensures are exploited by the state and market, both of which negate responsibility for life without any apparent consequences.

The discussion surrounding care has gained an audience in this scenario. More than ever before, there is greater attention today on the need to politicize care work and to develop a framework for care as a right (the right to receive care, to provide care, to not provide care and to take care of oneself) and with respect to the persons subject to this right (caregivers and persons receiving care). However, the care debate could be depleted or displaced from the mainstream as a result of prioritizing measure packages designed to “save the economy.” These packages obviate the fact that unpaid care and domestic work are not mere externalities, but rather engines of economic recovery since they ensure the reproduction of life and labor force. The proposed framework considers that the intervention of states in the social organization of care, in the interest of democratizing it, guarantees rights and enables the invigoration of the monetary economy through social investment in care services that allow more people to participate and deploy their skills in the labor market.

Considering this information and concerns, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung’s Working Group on the Care Economy and Processes of Social Reproduction, headed by The Future is Feminist Network, coordinated an in-depth diagnosis of the social organization of care, with emphasis on care policies and services, in twelve countries of the region during 2020. As a result, a report was published with these studies (one volume in digital and three volumes in print), all based on the

latest available statistics and diverse qualitative data for each country. An additional regional analysis was produced based on national studies.

Based on this process, a set of recommendations was formulated, which was enhanced and validated by key actors of civil society in Latin America. The result is this collective document of recommendations.

The discussions and practices of feminists and women’s organizations have given visibility to the fact that care is at the core of all life. The struggle, now, is for it to be at the center of politics as well.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Regarding the visibilization of care work, debates, and actors:

1. Develop, with the participation of civil society, feminist and women's organizations, a specific international instrument addressing the right to care (the right to receive care, to provide care, to not provide care and to take care of oneself) and its fundamental role in sustaining life. This instrument will make it possible to connect existing international declarations on the subject<sup>1</sup> to define a sound concept of the right to care, and to provide a framework of principles and recommendations on care policies that will encourage states to place it at the center of politics.
2. Demand that states ratify ILO Conventions 111, 156 and 189 and sign the specific convention on care that we are proposing.
3. Contribute to the visibility of good practices (from states and institutions, as well as from communities, trade unions, women's and feminist organizations and the private sector) that show ways of redistributing, reducing, and recognizing the right to care and care work. In addition, these

practices should reward and represent paid care work, both in cities and in rural areas.

4. Promote and follow up care debates so that care may be seen as an all-encompassing (involving paid and unpaid work), rights-based (universal, indivisible, progressive and interdependent) and life-sustaining issue.
5. Encourage an intersectional perspective on care and care policy debates, taking special consideration of the differences between urban and rural territories and the existence of Global care chains where irregular migration is a fundamental variable affecting the way care is organized. More generally, to visibilize the gaps and inequalities generated by the overload of care work in families, women and impoverished women in particular.
6. Promote and accompany alliances between women's and feminist organizations and trade unions that will promote and politicize the discussion on care, fostering dialogue with other decision-making spaces.
7. Encourage initiatives to democratize care by political, partisan, educational and academic leaders who place the issue of care at the center of institutional policy, always considering the voices of caregivers, avoiding the use of instrumental

politics, and emphasizing the need to produce structural, rather than palliative, transformations.

8. Promote the inclusion of minority and disadvantaged actors as public voices in decision making on care; specifically paid domestic workers, unpaid domestic workers, people who receive care, unpaid caregivers of people with disabilities, organizations of women with disabilities, indigenous, peasant, Afro-descendant and black populations, and migrants.
9. Promote the discussion of caregiving in trade union spaces, so that it is included in collective bargaining for working conditions and in other spaces where social dialogue is driven by trade unions.
10. Demand that caregiving discussions are included as a cross-cutting subject in schools as part of the effort to advance gender equality as a global asset. Likewise, to prioritize its inclusion in media and content for social media.
11. Encourage active international cooperation in promoting and ensuring the right to care.
12. Promote academic training—in economics and other disciplines—with a feminist perspective and look on academia as an actor of political advocacy.

<sup>1</sup> Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015), ECLAC Regional Conference on Women in LAC (2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019), Agenda 2030 (2015), ILO Conventions 111, 156, 189.

## Regarding public policies:

13. Promote an explicit international commitment of States to policies that defamiliarize care with emphasis on food and housekeeping aspects in order to foster an upward trend of social and institutional co-responsibility through assisted living, day care centers, home care, personal assistance, community kitchens, childcare centers, etc.
14. Obligate states to effectively design, implement, and evaluate programs that defeminize reproductive, domestic and care work (paid and unpaid), and foster the economic autonomy of women in all their diversity (gender, age, race, identity, etc.). Over time analyses have shown that women's increased participation in paid labor markets has not significantly increased men's participation in life-sustaining activities in households and communities. Moreover, in crises, women are the first to exit labor markets to take on increasing reproductive work. When there is a specific need for care at home (sick family members, dependents, or children), women assume the role of full or part-time caregivers. The monetized care sectors (health, education, services) continue to be over-represented by women. Therefore, systematic and explicit policies committed to the sexual transformation of work are necessary. These will not change without intentional and systematic efforts.
15. Apply the gender lens and the care economy as a cross-cutting issue in policies regarding poverty and inequality, social and labor protection, as well as the expansion, development and strengthening of public systems. A social organization that ensures the right to care and recognizes, reduces, and redistributes care work implies fundamental and structural changes that are in tension with the reproduction of capitalism. It is essential to recognize this as part of the politicization of these debates. In addition, it is necessary to promote and produce political conversations about economic and developmental models and their relationship to the social organization of care.
16. Demand states to formulate comprehensive and binding recommendations and labor policies that consider the right to care and caregiving work, as well as the broad sectors of informal work that exist in Latin America and the Caribbean. National and regional analyses show that existing care policies and services mainly benefit people with formal paid work and leave out informal workers, which is central to the reproduction of their exclusion and marginalization.
17. Demand states to conduct an exhaustive review of the existing norms, policies, programs, and services in each country and adjust them to reflect a gender perspective, in order to evaluate their designs, and maternalist, familiarity or targeted biases.
18. Include specific items earmarked for the care economy in economic plans, national and local budgets, and impact evaluations, as well as re-evaluate its classification as "social spending," considering that there are sufficient analyses to show that care economy spending is an investment expenditure since it generates direct positive results on the monetary economy. Likewise, consider the need for tax and fiscal reforms aimed at redistributing wealth.
19. Promote programs and projects that raise public awareness and change social norms related to care work and its sexual division.
20. Support the connection between care policies and the most recent transformations in the labor markets, specifically those related to teleworking and platform economies.
21. Advocate for the reduction of paid working hours, so that feasible working hours allow all people to provide care on an equal opportunity basis. Analyze options for women who do not have the means to look for work and obtain their own income since they provide care full-time.
22. Design, implement and evaluate policies related to caregiving, especially aimed at women of "working age," and connect them with those related to sexual and reproductive health.
23. Promote actions and policies based on the assumption of a "universal caregiver": every paid worker should be viewed as a caregiver. This would *not* mean ignoring the specifics and particularities of caregiving types.



- 24. Promote a fiscal policy with a gender perspective (for income and expenditure) that guarantees the financing of care policies.
- 25. Ensure that policies are not standardized, but that they are formulated and implemented with strict attention to the realities of different geographic areas and their needs. Governmental alignment should be established to avoid fragmentation and disconnection.

- 26. Consider and regulate vigorously, within public policies related to care, the private sector as a co-responsible actor for care. This should involve government oversight, the formulation of incentives and the deployment of enforcement mechanisms to protect the right to care for all people within this sector.
- 27. Advance, consolidate, and support comprehensive care systems and other measures in favor of the institutionalization of care in the region.

- 33. Encourage global comprehensive mapping of existing services, and their extent of coverage and quality.
- 34. Include in the time use surveys the time spent by children in the care of others, considering that the current information available indicates that girls and boys are also caregivers in many countries and regions.

## Regarding surveys and statistical information:

- 28. Promote safeguards for the production of disaggregated and updated statistical data on the social organization of care and the care economy (paid and unpaid work). Statistical information remains scarce, outdated, and fragmented. In Latin America and the Caribbean, some countries have made commitments to carry out Satellite Accounts and systematic time use surveys, but these commitments are not guaranteed in practice.
- 29. Promote the creation of national registries of unpaid caregivers.
- 30. Engage states, international organizations, academic institutions, and all possible actors in the elaboration of research that delves into the social organization of care and the study of its

relationship with social and gender structural inequalities, as well as the barriers to the provision of care.

- 31. Recommend the preparation of clear and common indicators for the entire region in order to evaluate the social organization of care and available policies and services, and to account for key aspects such as time poverty and the well-being or ill-being of caregivers.
- 32. Promote the accessibility of statistical data and the territorialization of the information produced to facilitate social oversight of the scope, quality and coverage of the programs.

## Regarding paid domestic and care work:

- 35. Promote normative transformations in relation to domestic and paid work. In several countries of the region, there are still laws or legislative provisions that differentiate and disfavor paid domestic workers and caregivers. It is imperative to equalize rights.
- 36. Recommend that the various social actors develop incentives for the formalization of paid care services that ensure rights, protection, and benefits for workers in this sector.
- 37. Promote debate on the relevance of differentiating paid domestic work from paid care work, bearing in mind that in many countries in the region, paid direct caregivers are largely invisible in the regulations.

- 38. Promote the creation of organizations formed by remunerated domestic workers and caregivers.
- 39. Raise awareness among paid domestic workers and caregivers about the need to participate in organizations and promote relationships between them and women's and feminist movements.

## WORKSHOP 2

# THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT AND THE FEMINIST ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA IN LAC

Comunicación y Educación



FES TRANSFORMACIÓN

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was adopted in March 2018 in Escazú, Costa Rica and will be effective from April 22, 2021.

The Agreement aims to ensure the full and effective implementation of access rights in the region, as well as the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of every person, of present and future generations, to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.

In particular, the Agreement is so far the only international instrument that considers the protection of environmental defenders. An article of the Agreement contains a commitment by states to ensure a safe and supportive environment in which individuals, groups and organizations that promote and defend environmental human rights can operate free from threats, restrictions and insecurity. Adequate and effective measures must be taken by states to recognize, protect and promote all rights of defenders, including the right to life, personal integrity, freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and free movement, as well as their ability to exercise access rights.

In addition, the definitions stipulate that persons or groups in vulnerable situations are those persons or groups that face particular difficulties in fully exercising their access rights. However, an important aspect for the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement will be the full incorporation of women in the guarantee of access rights; i.e., not assuming that they are

already included, or generalizing their presence in the processes. As environmental and natural resource conflicts increase in the region, the women's role in the defense of natural resources, land, and territory and the promotion of a healthy environment has become increasingly evident.

Considering this situation, the "The Escazú Agreement and the feminist environmental agenda in LAC" workshop was held to open a space for regional debate with women in LAC. The objective of the workshop was to build an agenda that guarantees access rights to information, decision making and the access to justice on environmental issues in the context of the public debates leading up to the Generation Equality Forum.

The workshop was based on the analysis of the barriers faced by women in the region to access their rights, along with the following questions: 1) What changes should be made to eliminate these barriers? 2) Which actors should make these changes? and 3) What capacities should be created or strengthened for this to happen? We divided the work in four groups focused on the problems and rights addressed by the Escazú Agreement:

1. **Women's right of access to information** is one of the main rights considered in the Agreement. However, persisting gender roles and stereotypes prevent women from fully exercising their right to access information on environmental issues. Inequality and discrimination, as well as illiteracy, digital illiteracy, the technical language of the environmental information disseminated, limited access to public announcements or policies related to agricultural, fishing, forestry and environmental activities, and lack of access to elec-

tricity, internet and computers are main factors. In addition, women have little time due to the burden of reproductive and care work, and they demonstrate a weaker democratic spirit to participate in these issues. Furthermore, there are geographical barriers and mobility constraints for women to get to the places where they can access information and calls for participation.

2. **Women's decision making on environmental issues** is weakened by the fact that women are not considered in decision-making spheres and the percentage of women who participate as decision makers is incredibly low, thus segregating them from these spaces. There is also a lack of institutional mechanisms for women's effective participation.

3. **Women's defense of the environment and their access to justice** is impacted by numerous barriers, such as the lack of a legal framework, reflected in public policies devoid of a gender perspective; the execution of sentences and loopholes within the environmental legal framework; the lack of access to ICTs, which limits access to information; the gap in information costs and assistance; the inexistence of mechanisms for the anonymity of women who file complaints; and the difficulty for indigenous communities to access information due to the lack of internet and proper accompaniment. In addition, discrimination, targeting and violence against women in environmental conflicts, the overload of care work at home and inequality in land tenure prevent women from fully exercising their right to defend their environment.

4. **The protection of women defenders of territory and natural resources** is undermined by a lack of

recognition and appreciation of the work done by women environmental defenders. The State provides little or no protection for them, evidenced by a lack of protection mechanisms for women defenders or, if they exist, their inadequate operation. In addition to gender violence, the exercise of environmental defense leads to threats, aggressions, forced displacements and femicides, and is aggravated by the growing militarization of territories in the region. The lack of knowledge and consequent violation of women's rights is recurrent. Finally, limited land ownership and tenure make it difficult for women to defend their territory.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

# Changes that need to be implemented:

### 1. Women's access to information:

- Implement government programs to tackle illiteracy and digital illiteracy for women while making sure to employ instructors with a gender and youth perspective.
- Generate specific diagnoses about the situation of women and their rights of access to information, public participation, access to justice and defense of the environment, with a focus on the particular characteristics of the region.
- Ensure government-provided access to internet and broadband (continuous and of good quality) in rural areas and public spaces.
- Ensure access to technology and ICTs so that women's access to information is not limited.
- Properly design web sites so that they can be understood by non-experts using accessible, non-technical language.
- Guarantee the dissemination of environmental matters (scientific dissemination) in mass media.
- Use other types of media such as print media, community radio, and public address systems to ensure access to information on environmental issues.

### 2. Women's environmental decision making:

- Take up, promote, and disseminate the topic of power in women's organizations (power, leadership, and organization) so as to foster women's leadership.
- Recognize and visibilize the contribution of women in working, reproductive and community spaces that make care and environmental decisions possible.
- Strategic communication for the promotion of women in decision-making spaces on environmental issues.
- Increased representation of women in leadership and decision-making positions, as well as their training on procedures.
- Build support networks among women.
- Increase budgets for institutions in charge of combating inequality.
- Generate and guarantee mechanisms to eradicate political violence against women and ensure that decision-making spaces are safe for women.

### 3. Defense of the environment and access to justice:

- Review environmental legal frameworks, as well as the institutions in charge of their implementation.
- Provide gender-based training and awareness-building in justice institutions, especially courts.
- Promote outreach programs so that women can become knowledgeable about their rights.
- Review environmental policies to reduce human rights violations.
- Create mechanisms for the protection of women defenders and communities, as well as the appropriate accompaniment.
- Inspect existent ombudsman's offices and promote their creation in countries where they do not exist yet.

### 4. Protection of women defenders of territory and natural resources:

- Recognize, appreciate, and visibilize the work done by women environmental defenders.
- Address the issue of militarization and organized crime in the territories.
- Not criminalize the work of environmental defenders.

- Review and modify environmental policies to reduce human rights violations.
- Create or improve protection mechanisms for women environmental defenders with a gender perspective.
- Ensure that women have access to land ownership and tenure in order to facilitate their work as environmental defenders.
- Create mechanisms for the protection of natural heritage in our countries and the region.
- Increase budgets in the ministries of education and environment as a way to promote environmental education and opportunities for women, and consequently decreasing the military budget.
- Encourage a decrease in extractive activities in territories and respect primary productive activities in rural territories.

## Recommendations for actions and changes by sector:

### 1. All levels of government:

- a) Encourage the participation of women in public affairs.
- b) Promote training in gender and environmental issues.
- c) Decentralize the functions of the national government to local, municipal, and departmental governments and make responsibilities horizontal across all levels of government.
- d) Address the corruption that causes environmental crimes and crimes against defenders.
- e) Ensure compliance with international treaties.

- f) Oversee that private companies respect human rights.

### 2. Civil Society Organizations:

- a) Influence public policies, generate reports, run campaigns, bring the local agenda to the global agenda to “expose” the country.
- b) Support and promote training for women with an environmental and gender perspective.
- c) Promote workshops on political participation, as well as networking between CSOs working in environmental and gender areas.

### 3. Academia:

- a) Incorporate gender and environmental perspectives in curricula.
- b) Develop training workshops on environmental issues (and especially on the tools provided by the Escazú Agreement) aimed primarily at women.
- c) Include gender variables in research.
- d) Make research public and participate in the elaboration of content.

### 4. Private sector:

- a) Promote policies that guarantee the effective participation of women in decision making, implement policies that allow women to access these spaces and guarantee paternity leaves.
- b) Conduct gender workshops for employees.

- c) Disclose information on projects that have an impact on the environment.

### 5. Legislators:

- a) Legislate with a gender perspective.
- b) Promote regulations, convene public hearings, request reports from the executive branch on the implementation of policies.
- c) Promote the ratification of the Escazú Agreement in countries where it has not been ratified yet.

## 6. Judicial branch:

- a) The Judiciary can advance a gender perspective in the training of its members and enforce compliance with the applicable standards at the request of plaintiffs.

## 7. Women's networks:

- a) Promote networks and propose ideas to strengthen capacities, considering that women are the ones who directly experience the problem, so their voices must be heard.

## 8. Philanthropy:

- a) Require a gender perspective in the development of projects; design calls for proposals based on decision making.

## 9. Media:

- a) Raise awareness of environmental defense issues, the rights of access to information, public participation, and access to justice.
- b) Media can inform the public of the existing demands and initiatives, including the Escazú Agreement.

## 10. Political parties:

- a) Include a gender and environmental perspective in bylaws and programs.

- Reinforcement of capacities for public speaking, political advocacy, environmental leadership, and organizational power.
- Technical training on environmental legislation.
- Work with families on gender issues and new masculinities, as this is often the first place where women are prevented from participating.
- Work to close the digital gap using a gender-transformative approach and adapt it according to the cultural context. Create technological competencies, GIS.
- Effective skills and relevant topics from a gender perspective, focusing on environmental issues and access to justice.
- Promotion of the empowerment of women (both nationally and regionally).

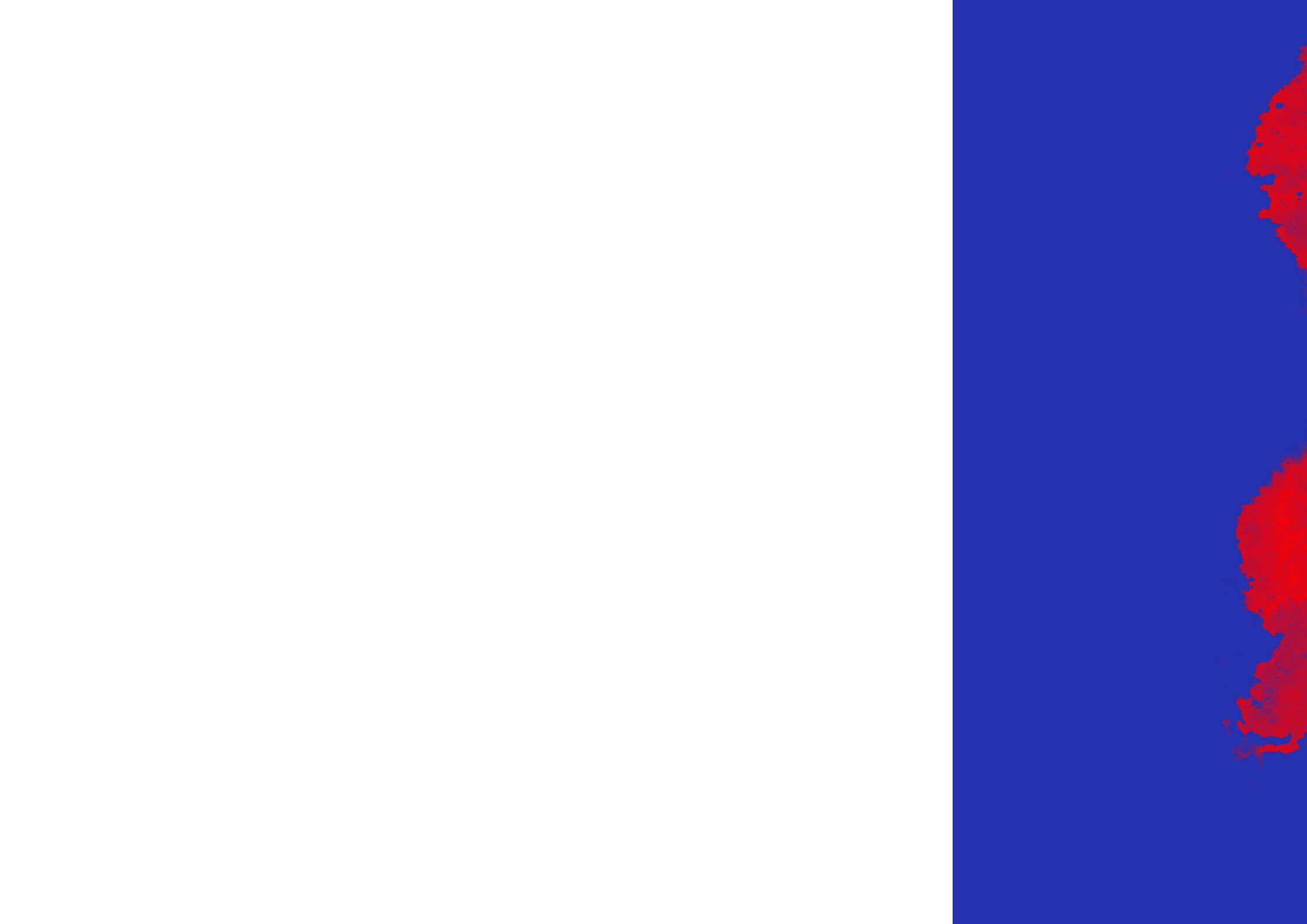
# Capacities to be strengthened:

## 1) Institutional capacities:

- What is a gender perspective? Why is it important? How can it be integrated into your work?
- Strengthen cross-cutting work in institutions, and ask them to work intersectionally.
- Provide ongoing training in gender/feminist and environmental perspectives.
- Develop gender equality policies.
- Generate data disaggregated by gender.
- Provide training for the formulation of indicators with a gender perspective.
- Promote and spread the topic of new masculinities.

## 2) Women's capacities:

- Knowledge of their rights and how to exercise them, along with practical ways to do so.





## WORKSHOP 3

# EXPERIENCES FROM THE COLOMBIAN PEACE AGREEMENT

## Recommendations for the Gender, Peace and Security Agenda



In recent decades, the United Nations has agreed on a series of norms and standards related to the elimination of violence against women both in contexts of armed conflict and in times of peace. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, two Security Council resolutions (Resolution 1325 and Resolution 1820) and their subsequent monitoring have established a crucial framework.

The Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is considered the most advanced case in the world in terms of incorporating a gender perspective in peace negotiations and peace building. Within Colombian civil society, Resolution 1325 is recognized as a fundamental tool and instrument for women to participate in the peace negotiation process.

At the same time, the Colombian case demonstrates the difficulty of elaborating and implementing a peace agenda with a differentiated, territorial and gender-transformative approach after the demobilization of an armed actor.

The following recommendations were compiled with a group of experts from Colombian and international civil society. These recommendations seek to support the development of standards and policies within the UN, based on the Colombian experience.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### Pre-negotiation stage:

- Promote that, during the preparatory stage of peace negotiations, criteria are applied to ensure the participation of women as negotiators, bearing in mind that women are not always in power or decision-making positions in governments or in armed groups that enter into peace agreements.
- Guarantee the effective participation of women in peace negotiations, both as part of the negotiating parties and as part of victims and women's and feminist organizations. Therefore, including diverse perspectives and approaches in terms of war impacts.
- Promote and facilitate processes that allow women peacemakers around the world to meet and connect with each other in a comprehensive and structured way.
- Promote that structural causes of conflicts and their consequences be considered in peace agreement negotiations, so that solutions with a gender and human rights perspective can be proposed, implemented, and monitored.

### During negotiations:

- At a minimum, adhere to gender parity in all instances of participation, negotiation, and peace-building. Parity must be a primary concern to guarantee the applicability of the gender-transformative approach.
- Promote and support the coordination of different women's and civil society organizations during the negotiation processes to ensure that their analyses are reflected, and that gender is cross-cutting to the agreements.

### After the negotiations: during the implementation

- Promote and accompany organizational alliances, beginning with civil society, that work to guarantee an intersectional gender perspective during implementation to address the varying impacts and needs of different populations.
- Support initiatives for follow-up and compliance monitoring of the Peace Agreement on behalf of civil society organizations with the purpose of guaranteeing their sustainability and independence.
- In the area of transitional justice, post-conflict investigation methodologies should be designed and implemented from a gender perspective to verify the facts of sexual violence, reproductive violence, and discriminatory effects on women.
- Part of the gender-transformative approach should include women's political participation at local, regional, and national levels in order to guarantee the implementation of the Peace Agreement.
- Recommend to governments that during the implementation processes of the peace agreements, sufficient resources should be allocated for the implementation and monitoring of the gender differential approach.
- Guarantee the adoption of an implementation roadmap that guarantees the participation of different organizations so that their contributions, analysis, and needs are integrated into the policies adopted.

## RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE WOMEN'S PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA: IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325

- Link up the women's peace and security agenda with the CEDAW agenda through international mechanisms (where General Recommendation No. 30 of the CEDAW Committee focused on women in the prevention of conflicts and in conflict and post-conflict situations should be an integral part of CEDAW and other relevant conventions).
- In relation to the Women's Peace and Security Agenda (Resolution 1325), it is crucial to review and update the monitoring system and its indicators established by the Security Council in its report dated September 28, 2010.
- Strengthen the obligatory nature of the Women's Peace and Security Agenda at a state level, which should be applied not only in cases of war, but as the conflict resolution instrument that it is.
- It is very important to consider the general situation of the country in terms of gender relations and compliance with CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action to assess whether the state and its officials understand how to implement a gender-transformative approach.

## Protection of social leaders and guarantee for the exercise of their rights:

- Require states to guarantee the life and political exercise of rights for leaders, women leaders, and ex-combatants, recognizing the differentiated risks faced by women and the population at large after the signing of peace agreements.
- Guarantee the equal and substantive participation of those who represent ex-combatant groups in decisions that affect their lives and rights during the implementation of the agreements.
- Ensure that clear strategies and procedures are in place to guarantee that the voices of women in local organizational processes are heard by authorities and the international community at all levels of government.
- Require states to commit to protecting the lives of women who belong to vulnerable groups or who are located in areas where new cycles of violence may occur after the signing of peace agreements.
- Encourage states to avoid stigmatization and persecution of ex-combatant groups after the signing of peace agreements. Propose effective protection plans for their lives and those of their families with a differential and gender focus.

## What is the best way to achieve peace processes with a more feminist and inclusive perspective?

- Advocate for peace agreements to include a state commitment to include a gender equity approach in the implementation of such agreements.
- Adopt a broader concept of gender, meaning that gender is not synonymous with women and acknowledging the territorial and differential impacts generated by conflicts. The Colombian Peace Agreement has a significantly wider concept of gender, and shows that a binary concept is not enough.
- Adopt a broader concept of security that includes a gender perspective.
- Recognize the role of masculinities in armed conflict both in militarization and other scenarios contributing to its deconstruction.
- Recognize the support and protection provided through the peace work of local and indigenous

women activists and feminists at the community and grassroots levels.

- Support the interrelationships between local, regional, and international peacebuilding.

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE COLOMBIAN CASE:

- Involve Colombian government into the elaboration of a National Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325, which should be developed and agreed upon with the participation of civil society organizations that have experience in gender, peace and security issues. This National Action Plan should be mandatory and prepared with a differential approach and must include concrete territorialized actions, a timeline, a labeled budget and indicators for the monitoring and follow-up of its fulfillment. It is important that its creation has an informed and qualified participation of women.
- Make the Colombian state to commit to an effective implementation of the gender perspective described within the Peace Agreement. This should involve measures and actions related to the structural causes of armed conflicts, with an intersectional and territorial approach. Compliance with this implementation must be monitored and integrated with other gender-related public policies of the Colombian government.
- Given that the main challenge is implementation, the Verification Mission has to emphasize this point and provide support in this area.
- For several reasons, sexual violence was not considered a priority within the Colombian peace process. Civil society organizations argue that this was a mistake and that, in accordance with the resolution's focus, more emphasis should be given to this issue.
- Promote the guaranteed functioning and financing of the Special Women's Instance for Gender Focus in Peace (*la Instancia Especial de Mujeres para el Enfoque de Género en la Paz*).
- Provide technical support, together with international cooperation agencies, for the implementation of the principles of parity, universality and alternation in political reforms and decision-making spaces.
- Guarantee the sustainability and funding of local projects led by Afro-Colombian and indigenous women's organizations in rural and urban territories to ensure their economic autonomy, the transformation of the sexual division of labor, and the progress in peace building.
- In the reincorporation process, guarantee the effective participation of women ex-combatants, including their experiences and diverse territorial needs for the formulation of plans and programs with a gender perspective.
- Support the political and organizational processes currently being developed by women victims and reincorporated women, at the territorial level, and ensure that they are linked to the policies formulated at national level.
- Ensure that reincorporation processes include the necessary elements to avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes. Promote a more active participation of reincorporated women in training processes and decision-making spaces.



- Recognize the progress made in the area of Transitional Justice with a gender focus in Colombia (LGBTI reports in the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), a gender-specific chapter in the Truth Commission report, Truth Commission workshops on sexual violence against men).
- Promote mechanisms to ensure that victims are not re-victimized in the context of JEP and Truth Commission outcomes, or by international bodies.

- Sexual violence should not be considered a crime or related crime and special attention should be paid to the existing patterns of sexual violence in contexts of armed conflict. These patterns have been widely documented in the Colombian case.

- Guarantee a comprehensive gender focus in the reports and decisions made within the framework of Transitional Justice.

- Support the work of the International Verification Component in a coordinated and horizontal manner, in conjunction with women's organizations at national and local levels, to integrate their views on the obstacles and progress of the gender-transformative approach in the Peace Agreement.

- Encourage the international community to prioritize the long-term sustainability of the gender-transformative approach in the implementation process through technical, political, and financial support.

- The demilitarization of territories should be a State priority within a peace process and priority should be given to the construction of a social state based on the rule of law. Support to civil society should be more immediate. New institutions should be built according to the principle of parity.

- The United Nations must highlight the obligations of the State to implement the Peace Agreement and what it means to implement a gender-transformative approach. In the case of Colombia, additional efforts must be made together with the State since currently there is no common approach to gender within its different institutions in regard to their respective implementation measures.

## Current status of compliance with the integration of the gender-transformative approach in the Peace Agreement

- According to the 2019 GPAZ report "La Paz avanza con las mujeres," published in May 2020, evidence shows that of the 122 gender-related measures in the Peace Agreement, 13 have already been satisfied, 19 presented satisfactory progress, 50 had partial progress and 40 did not present any progress from August 2018 to August 2019. We recommend that the Colombian government urgently activate actions and policies to ensure that the measures with zero implementation progress begin their processes.

- In the official oversight of gender measures, different committees, and organizations (United Nations, KROC Institute, the gender instance and others) use different methods to quantify

the measures to be evaluated. Colombian civil society calls for an agreed-upon figure so that the monitoring process can be done on the same quantitative basis.

- Most gender provisions prescribe what should be done in implementation, but not how to do it. In addition, not all gender-sensitive measures were included in the implementation framework of the Peace Agreement. Civil society organizations demand the government for a plan that explains what will happen with the measures that have not been included.

Finally, further information is recommended in the following reports prepared by civil society organizations:

- “A 20 años de la Resolución 1325. Las organizaciones de mujeres revisan su implementación en Colombia durante 2019” [*Twenty years after Resolution 1325. Women’s organizations review its implementation in Colombia in 2019*]. Retrieved from: <https://www.humanas.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Informe-Resolucio%CC%81n-1325-2021-.pdf>
- “LA PAZ AVANZA CON LAS MUJERES. Observaciones sobre la incorporación del enfoque de género en el Acuerdo de Paz GPAZ – 2019” [*Peace progresses with women. Observations of the inclusion of gender in the Peace Agreement GPAZ – 2019*] (GPAZ: Género en la Paz is a working group of feminist, LBT, academics, victims and human rights defenders activists formed around the implementation of the gender-transformative approach in peacebuilding). Retrieved from: [https://co.boell.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/gpaz\\_informe\\_2019%20%281%29.pdf](https://co.boell.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/gpaz_informe_2019%20%281%29.pdf)



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