

**Intervention of Luiza Carvalho, Regional Director of the Americas  
and the Caribbean, UN Women**

**Side event on “Commitments and Roadmap for a Planet 50-50 by  
2030”**

**Panel on Partnerships**

Good afternoon,

Ms. Tania Consentino, CEO for South America, Schneider Electric

Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the ECLAC

Distinguished colleagues and participants,

We are already in the second year of implementation of the SDGs and taking stock of progress, lessons learned, major constraints and solutions as we did in the document shared with you today and in the previous panels, to identify ways forward to plan, pace, speed and cost SDG implementation.

**If we look at partnerships in the region, we need to recognize the importance of their diversity and strength,**

Take **inter-institutional partnerships within States**, as noted in previous sessions, it is essential to link gender equality policies with sectoral policies and to ensure the inclusion of **national women’s machineries** from national macro-economic decisions to SDG monitoring structures. Today, we see that – in the region - there is insufficient participation or an absence of gender perspectives in the national institutional arrangements from the high-level decision taking instances for SDG implementation.

**If we take financing, which is a key means of implementation, it is important to refer to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, which was agreed in July 2015 as part of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and that reiterates States' commitment to substantive equality. However, if we look at available global data, there has been **chronic underinvestment in women's empowerment and gender equality**. Only **5 per cent of foreign aid funds** had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013. Commitments in this area, as a share of total bilateral aid to economic and productive sectors, have remained flat since 2007/2008.

We need to pursue our advocacy in parliaments to establish gender-sensitive budgets and with Ministries of Finance and Planning to ensure that sufficient funding is allocated to implement public policies and plans for gender equality.

And gender sensitive budgeting is not enough.

**We need to tackle macroeconomic policies that are not neutral, and address structural barriers to decent work (such as minimum wages, access to land, discriminatory legislations, child marriage etc), social protection and care systems.**

The **National statistical institutes** also require additional capacity development and resources to generate data disaggregated by sex, age, gender, ethnicity, disability, and origin, as well as gender statistics. National statistics authorities need strong support from governments, parliaments and civil society to improve, modernize,

identify better technological and cheaper solutions to produce reliable data.

**Partnerships between States** through South-South and triangular cooperation are expanding, with the UN system often facilitating or contributing to such knowledge and experience sharing. We have many great examples in the region, from the International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes, to the CARICOM set of Gender Equality Indicators, to bilateral exchanges between Governments on specific issues.

**Strong partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society are also essential.** They contribute to a more inclusive society, creating further opportunities to deepen gender equality and social justice, and achieve sustainable development for all.

In the last decades, Latin America and the Caribbean has pushed forward the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through the adoption of advanced legal and policy frameworks. Women's and feminist organizations have played a key role in that respect and Governments, in many instances, have been at the forefront of progressive change.

**Private companies**, are rolling up sleeves and a growing movement is happening in the LAC region with several adhesions from individuals to large corporations. Schneider Electric – we are so pleased to have you with us today Tania - have adopted tools - through the Women's Empowerment Principles or the Gender Equality Seal - is pushing for profound transformations in the business practices leading to more gender equality in the workplace.

Today, we are faced with the responsibility to preserve these gains. That is why it is so important to establish mechanisms for consultation and accountability that enable institutionalized dialogue between the State and civil society on progress in achieving the SDGs.

**Another key set of alliances are the ones at regional and sub-regional levels. Various regional women's mechanisms have played and continue to play an important role in promoting the implementation of the SDGs from a gender equality perspective. The mechanisms include:**

- the Regional Conference on Women,
- the Meeting of Ministers of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States;
- the Council of Central American Ministers for Women's Affairs and the Dominican Republic (COMMCA) of the Central American Integration System (SICA);
- the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities for Women (RMAAM) of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR);
- the Andean Council for High-Level Authorities for Women and Equal Opportunities (CAAAMI) of the Andean Community;
- and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

These mechanisms have helped generate regional agreements that all contribute to operationalizing the Agenda 2030 in the region. To cite a few: The 2016 Montevideo Strategy, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the Special Declaration on the Promotion of Gender Equality and Eradication of Violence against Women of CELAC, the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action on refugees and displaced populations, and most recently, the

Panama Declaration for the 61st period of sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61).

We need to continue our joint advocacy and work together:

- to estimate the costs of implementation and develop methodologies that can be easily applied by national and local Governments.
- Pace the targets into desirable and manageable timelines, prioritizing the ones who are lagging behind.
- Change the way budgets are defined, and start from the bottom up and from what is most needed first.

The challenges should not hold us back from the aspiration that calls us here. From UN Women and all the agencies part of the GIG, we are convinced that, by prioritizing gender equality and the full exercise of the rights of the more than 300 million women and girls in our region, who enrich their countries every day, we will move towards more prosperous economies, towards more just and peaceful societies and towards a more sustainable planet, to support progress and the achievements of the Agenda 2030.

Thank you very much.