



Fundación para Estudio e  
Investigación de la Mujer



## REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIONS FOR UN WOMEN'S STRATEGIC PLAN (2012-2013) IN LATIN AMERICA

Between February 21 and March 17, 2011, these consultations were conducted in the countries in the region. The majority of them were done at country level, although a regional consultation was held in Panama in early March. Some meetings held in New York during the CSW were considered consultations, although they did not have the same format as those in the countries. The meetings in New York, especially, were cited more for information purposes than as proper consultations, and in many cases the participants did not engage with this objective.

In the countries, the consultations were to include: governmental areas including parliamentarians, United Nations agencies, and representatives of Civil Society including universities and research centers.

There was a consultation model to follow with informational material to be presented, which was followed verbatim in most countries.

Most of the consultations were in the form of three separate meetings lasting an hour and a half or two hours each: one with government representatives, one with representatives of United Nations agencies and one with Civil Society and universities. Except for one country, where the three meetings were held jointly, in all the others they were held separately with each group: government, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations and groups. Although the invitation set forth the objective, four questions were sent to the participants only in the country that held the joint meeting. These were the same questions raised in the meetings but, by being sent prior to the meeting those attending were able to prepare their answers ahead of time to take with them. This aided the process of building consensus on a collective response.

The meetings were opened with a presentation by UN Women and the 2011 Strategic Plan which has five strategic areas, and the participants received a document with the activities for the first 100 days which was presented by Dr. Bachelet in the first meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) in 2011.

Afterwards, dialogue was opened and the participants' ideas and contributions were gathered. Given the short duration of each meeting the dialogue was not very extensive or exhaustive.

**Participants:** The organizations did not see the lists of people invited to each of the meetings. In most cases it is not known who was invited from governmental areas and from agencies. Regarding the civil society organizations, in several countries the invitations were only sent to some organizations. In most of the countries, women from indigenous peoples' organizations and rural organizations were not invited. In other cases women caretakers and women from grassroots organizations did not attend either; in many cases they were not invited. In several countries the invitation was not widely disseminated and in some cases the campaign members did not find out about the meeting until they were consulted by the regional coordinator of the GEAR Campaign, and they then requested information from UN Women but received it after the meeting had already been held.

Regarding the **issues and priorities**, in most cases in the meetings with civil society the participants called for UN Women to have an active role in advancing the gender equality agenda in the country and it was especially requested that governments be demanded to respect the international commitments and commitments to their own laws, since they do not comply with them in most cases.

In some countries parliamentarians were invited together with governments, but they participated in the meetings with government representatives, and NGOs did not enter into dialogue with them nor was there any information about what was addressed in the other meetings.



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In every case, in the meetings with civil society organizations participants raised the need to create advisory groups in the UN Women country offices with the participation of women's organizations and groups.

Regarding the **issues** raised, privilege was given to: measures for eliminating/reducing violence against women; overcoming poverty and generating income as well as creating jobs for women and young people; respect for women's rights especially their sexual and reproductive rights, including abortion care to reduce high maternal mortality rates. The issue of trafficking and trade of women and girls was also raised in every country.

In addition to the priority themes, the need to increase funding to support projects at the national level was expressed and the need to promote the contributions to UN Women by governments in the region was highlighted.

In most cases there was no feedback about the results of the consultations with the different groups, for example, the meeting with government representatives and the meeting with United Nations agencies.

To **summarize**, we should note that the consultations were developed separately: with government, with United Nations agencies, and with civil society, which prevented a greater richness from being achieved and showed UN Women to be another agency of the system, in other words, showing no change in its methodology. In general, the consultations were brief so the issues could not be considered as in-depth as necessary and there was only partial representation of the different women's groups and their networks.

Provided the above, we believe the following are necessary and we recommend that UN Women adopt the following actions:

1. Establish permanent consultations at country level between representatives of governments, United Nations agencies and civil society.
2. Take minutes at the consultations and disseminate them.
3. Promote advancing public policies for equality between women and men, establishing priorities according to specific situations and developing tripartite working groups.
4. Implement specific groups with representatives of civil society organizations to analyze priority themes, abiding by predetermined timeframes for submitting proposals.
5. Promote funding increases at country level, from United Nations agencies and government and private sectors, to advance the gender equality agenda and allow for the implementation of priority programs.

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