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**Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from the gender perspective**

## **Follow-up of the SDGs from a gender perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Note by United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the  
Caribbean (ECLAC)\***

### *Abstract*

Four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region are promoting actions to address the statistical challenges of implementing the Agenda from a gender perspective. On one hand, mechanisms for the advancement of women have been advocating strongly for the production of gender sensitive data. On the other hand, national statistical offices, in recognition of the specific characteristics of each country in the various dimensions of development, have agreed on a set of indicators to monitor SDGs based on their statistical priorities. This regional framework of indicators recognizes the importance of monitoring the structural challenges faced in the pursuit of gender equality, particularly with respect to time use and physical and economic autonomy of women.

The paper discusses the gaps both in terms of the ability of indicators to measure the ambitions enshrined in the SDG target, and the capability of the region to produce data to ensure no woman or girl is left behind.

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## I. Regional architecture

1. Text Latin America and the Caribbean have a series of existing regional mechanisms to identify regional and sub-regional challenges and priorities in relation to gender equality and women's autonomy, as well as to promote development Statistics of the countries of the region.
2. On the one hand, the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is the main intergovernmental forum in the region, in which States establish commitments to move towards the full guarantee of women's human rights and to eradicate gender inequalities and discriminations. Since 1977, the Governments of the region have held 13 Conferences and undertaken a multiplicity of commitments to women's rights and autonomy, and gender equality, thus building an ambitious Regional Gender Agenda (Bidegain, 2017). This Agenda, developed from a perspective of regional priorities and challenges for achieving gender equality, converges with the Sustainable Development Goals and constitutes a guide for sustainable development for Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. For 40 years the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean has highlighted the importance of high-quality statistical information to guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies to ensure the compliance of the commitments made in the Regional Gender Agenda. In 2007, Governments request ECLAC "... *The creation of an equality observatory that will help strengthen national gender machineries* " (Quito Consensus, 2007). Thus, with the establishment of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, a process of information production from a gender perspective began in the region, which required a series of measures designed to strength the technical, methodological and analytical capacities of those who produce statistical information and those who use it, to strength inter-agency partnerships and horizontal cooperation, and to promote the diffusion of indicators and statistics that account for the progress and barriers to achieve gender equality in the region.
4. In addition, in 2016 the States expressed in the *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*, the need for information systems as a key pillar for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, within the framework of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In this way, governments of the region have expressed their commitment to the production of information to make inequalities between men and women visible.
5. On the other hand, the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA)<sup>1</sup> has been consolidated as the appropriate forum for cooperation, coordination and harmonization of work in the field of official statistics and therefore the most natural arena for all matters related to the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level (ECLAC, 2018). Working groups have been formed to carry out activities that contribute to the implementation of the SCA Strategic Plan and promote the exchange between countries.
6. Since 2006, the SCA-ECLAC Working Group on Gender Statistics has aimed to promote the production, development, systematization and dissemination of statistical information and gender- sensitive indicators for use in the design, implementation, monitoring and

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<sup>1</sup> The SCA officiates as the articulator of the relevant statistical actors in the region by collecting the experience, expertise and knowledge of the member States, the key stakeholders of other ECLAC subsidiary bodies, the subregional statistical instances and the statistical counterparts of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

evaluation of public policies. From 2015 the Group has aligned its work plan with the commitments and challenges established by the Regional Gender Agenda and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The Group has been an important key for the methodological discussion of some of the paradigmatic indicators that are part of the Gender Equality Observatory, such as the *Total work time*<sup>2</sup>, *Number and rate of Women's deaths at the hands of their intimate partner or former partner*<sup>3</sup>, *Number and rate femicide or feminicide*<sup>4</sup>, *Percentage of elected mayors who are women*<sup>5</sup>, among others. It allowed the region to have an important breakthrough in the production of indicators for visualize phenomena affecting the attainment of the autonomy of women causing that at the time of the definition of the global framework of indicators for SDG monitoring, the countries of the region were already producing indicators that in other regions were not occurring regularly.
8. Within the framework of the SCA, the countries of the region also established, in 2016, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate the elaboration and implementation process of the regional indicators framework and to build the capacities for regional SDGs monitoring. The systematization of national statistical capacities to produce the global indicator framework for the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean is among one of first activities of the Statistical Coordination Group. This activity revealed the situation of each country in terms of the production of indicators of the global framework and identified the demands and supplies of technical cooperation for the national statistical strengthening.

## II. Regional Indicator Framework

9. During the Eighth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the member States recognized the need of a regional implementation plan to gradually meet the information requirements resulted from the Agenda 2030 attending to the realities, emphasis and common challenges of the countries of the region. For this, it was requested to ECLAC, in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the SCA, the elaboration of proposal for a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the goals and targets of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (ECLAC, 2015).
10. The regional indicators framework building process not only considers thematic indicators frequently used by the specialized agencies, but also recognizes the commitments adopted by States and particularly, it recognizes the regional progress in terms of commitments to gender equality. For this reason, the regional indicators framework considers the gender

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<sup>2</sup> Work comprises all activities carried out by persons of any sex and age in order to produce goods or provide services for the consumption of third parties or self-consumption (Cite the 13TH ICLS). The *Total working time* It is the sum of paid working time and unpaid working time.

<sup>3</sup> It corresponds to the annual quantification of women aged 15 years and over who are killed by their intimate partner or former partner

<sup>4</sup> It corresponds to the quantification of the annual total number of homicides of women aged 15 years and over, killed by gender violence. According to national laws, it is called femicide, feminicide or aggravated homicide due to gender.

<sup>5</sup> It corresponds to the percentage of women elected mayors for a period of local government. The name of the indicator is determined given the greater frequency with which this office is referred in Latin America and the Caribbean, however, it considers *intendentes, prefectos, síndicos, presidentes municipales*.

strategic indicators agreed by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the monitoring indicators of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

11. After ECLAC's first proposal for the aspirational and non-binding regional framework of indicators, presented during the Ninth Meeting of the SCA, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda and its Technical Secretariat, in collaboration with regional and subregional statistical instances, worked on a proposal for the prioritization of indicators 6. This proposal defines a basic set of prioritized indicators that takes into account regional specificities, thereby complementing the official global indicator framework; contributes to prioritize measurement efforts and to effectively coordinate horizontal, regional and international cooperation efforts to advance towards closing gaps in statistical capacities; and serves for reporting the progress made by the countries of the region towards achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
12. At the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLA, the *Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the sustainable development goals in Latin America and the Caribbean* was approved. After a very thorough process of analyzing the regional relevance of the indicators, the feasibility of their calculation and their presence in other regional frameworks, a set of 154 indicators was prioritized<sup>7</sup>, of which 120 are part of the global framework, 30 correspond to complementary indicators and 4 are substitute indicators. These 154 indicators cover the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 94 of the 169 goals that form global indicator framework for the SDGs.
13. The prioritized set of indicators for the regional statistical follow-up of the SDGs includes complementary indicators to deepen some phenomena that are important to the region and that are necessary to achieve gender equality.

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<sup>6</sup>For more details on the prioritization process of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the sustainable development goals in Latin America and the Caribbean see [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44116/1/S1800868\\_es.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44116/1/S1800868_es.pdf) (ECLAC, LC/CE. 17/3)

<sup>7</sup>The establishment of a limited set of indicators does not imply the exclusion of the other indicators defined at the global level to follow up on the 2030 Agenda. The prioritization aims to give a roadmap in the capacity-building and horizontal cooperation efforts that the countries need in order to produce them indicators and places in a second and third order those indicators that require a different methodological approach.



14. The regional framework advances in monitoring gender equality issues by including indicators to monitor adolescent pregnancy (C-3.7b *Percentage of live births to adolescent and young mothers that were unplanned*, and C-3.7c *Proportion of women aged 15–19 years who are mothers*), which is still a prevalent phenomenon in the region. On the other hand, an indicator that gives account of prenatal care coverage has also been included to prevent maternal mortality and to ensure the health of all children, (C-3.1 *Prenatal care coverage (at least one consultation or at least four consultations)*), which was not considered as an indicator of the global framework.
15. Also, the femicide indicator has been prioritized (C-5.2 *Rates of femicide or feminicide (gender-related killings of women aged 15 years and older per 100,000 women)*) to follow up on targets related to the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Given the severity of the phenomenon in the region, having information on this extreme form of gender-based violence is essential to formulate and monitor comprehensive laws to prevent these acts, to punish aggressors and to protect victims while addressing the structural causes that originate it. From the perspective of information production, the inclusion of this indicator in the regional framework urges countries to improve their national measurements and strengthen administrative records, capacities of public officials and e inter-institutional agreements (ECLAC, 2018b).
16. In the prioritized set, indicators that consider the situation of women in terms of their economic autonomy were included. The regional framework recognizes the rigid sexual division of labour present in the region and the overburden of domestic work impacting on women’s possibility to freely use their time by incorporating the *Total work time* indicator (C-5.4c *Average hours per week spent on unpaid and paid work, combined (total workload), by sex*). The overburden of unpaid work is also recognized as a barrier to the participation of women in the labor market and for this reason, although at a second level of prioritization, the following indicators were proposed C-8.5b *Proportion of women spending their time exclusively on domestic and care work, by number of minors in the household and area of residence* y C-8.5c *Proportion of the population aged 20-59 years not participating in the labour market for family reasons, by sex*.
17. The gender perspective is incorporated in the indicator C-8.6 *Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training, and not working exclusively in the home, by sex* chosen for the measurement of the target 8.6 which aims at reducing the number of young people who are not employed nor studying, by proposing the identification of those young people who dedicate themselves exclusively to domestic and care unpaid work. The information generated by this indicator will serve as input to formulate policies aimed at increasing the number of young people link to education or employment, considering that for the case of young women unpaid work responsibilities operate as an important barrier.
18. The regional framework proposes a set of indicators to monitor on poverty eradication, recognizing that resources are not equitably distributed within households. Therefore, in addition to traditional indicators of poverty monitoring, in which household income is measured, the following indicators that measure the tendency and the adequacy of monetary resources at the personal level have been prioritized at a second level: C-1.4a *Proportion of population without own income, by sex*; C-1.4b *Proportion of population with own income lower than the minimum wage, by sex*. Additionally, although it remained at a third level priority, the regional framework recognizes that the gender gaps in access to economic resources goes beyond the working age, and that it makes elder women more vulnerable to

poverty. Therefore, it incorporates the following measurements: P-1.3.1b *Proportion of older persons (aged 65 and older) with no pension or retirement income, by sex, age and geographical location (urban or rural)* and C-1.3 b *Proportion of average pension and retirement income received by women, compared with that received by men.*

19. Recognizing the importance of a normative framework that guarantees gender equality and non-discrimination at both the national and sub-national levels, the following indicators were also considered in the regional framework C-10.3c *Existence of legislation that prohibits discrimination (on the basis of gender, ethnicity, nationality and disability)*; C-10.3d *Existence of policies that promote equal opportunity and treatment (on the basis of gender, ethnicity, nationality and disability)* and C-11.3 *Proportion of urban and territorial development plans that incorporate the rights, gender and interculturality perspectives.*
20. However, there are still several challenges in measuring the phenomena that considers the multiple forms of discrimination and barriers faced by women for the enjoyment of their autonomy. On the one hand, there are measuring gaps in defining indicators without a gender perspective for goals that clearly addresses the centrality of gender equality and women's right in its formulation, such as summarized in the following box.

#### Box 1: Outstanding challenges

##### Box 1

#### **Outstanding challenges: explicit targets on gender equality or women's rights that do not have monitoring indicators defined from a gender perspective**

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the centrality of gender equality for the achievement of Sustainable Development, and the global and regional mechanisms for the definition of indicators for its follow-up have sought to maintain this aspiration present in the instruments of measurement. However, it is important to analyze if, in the attempt to balance statistical feasibility with the ambition of the Agenda, the indicators selected truly provide information for a comprehensive approach to gender inequalities in the region.

Some of the proposed indicators for the regional (and global) framework were not defined from a gender perspective, even though they were considered for the monitoring of targets that explicit its relevance for gender equality in the SGDs. It calls attention to the importance of the analysis of each country on the availability of additional data that provide information on the progress (or setbacks) towards the achievement of the SGDs, preventing the oversimplification or distortion of the goals and maintaining the relevance of gender equality as an end in itself and as a means to reach the other 15.



Although the target 1.4 proposes "... ensure that all men and women, ... have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.", the indicators defined in the global framework for monitoring this target do not take into account people's access to inheritance, natural resources, financial resources or technologies. In addition, the proposed indicator at the global level to evaluate the access to basic services (1.4.1 *Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services*) presents two limitations from a gender perspective: 1) uses households as analysis unit, invisibilizing intra-household inequality dynamics in access to certain services, and 2) does not specify whether the basics services include maternity care health services, family planning, care, among other relevant services to ensure gender equality. The same indicator was proposed for the regional framework, but it was considered in a third order of priority.



Targets 2.1 and 2.2 declare the urgency of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition but the proposed indicators in the global framework do not require sex disaggregation. In particular, the indicators do not account for the situation of pregnant or breastfeeding women, even though the target mentions this group of people. In this sense, some indicators proposed in the regional framework as complementary would be supplying this need for information: *Prenatal care coverage (at least one consultation or at least four consultations)* (C-3.1), which was prioritized by the SCA and *Prevalence of anemia in particularly vulnerable groups (children aged 6-59 month) and pregnant women* (C-2.2b), which remained in the third level of prioritization. On the other hand, target 2.3 recognizes the need to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of food producers however the proposed indicator at the global level (2.3.2 *Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status*) was not prioritized as first level in the region. Moreover, there is no indicator, at the global or regional level, that considers the gender gap in access to productive, financial and market resources, opportunities to add value to their products, or to obtain non-agricultural jobs.



All explicit targets of goal 3 on gender equality have adequate indicators for their measurement.



In goal 4, all the indicators proposed for the monitoring of the explicit targets on gender equality are gender-focused. In the region, where there has been significant progress in the access of girls to education, it is necessary to have indicators that takes into account the differences in the areas of education of men and women which later results in disadvantages in the incorporation in the labour market. Therefore, it is important to have information about the quality of education, the areas of training and the links between educational and labour paths. Also, the regional framework prioritized at a second level the indicator to monitor students' knowledge of gender equality (4.7.1 *Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment*).



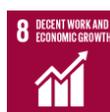
Although in the Goal 5 all the indicators proposed in the global and regional frameworks have a gender-based approach, the regional challenge is to produce information following a standard methodology on a regular and timely basis.



The regional framework advances by proposing proxies for the monitoring of targets 6.1 and 6.2 which had no specificity of gender in the global framework: P-6.1.1 *Proportion of population with access to improved water sources, by sex, age and geographical location (urban or rural)* and P-6.2.1 *Proportion of population with no access to improved sanitation, by sex, age and geographical location (urban or rural)*, however, these indicators were considered at a second level of priority.



To follow up on the target on *ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services* (target 7.1), it is required to have indicators which disaggregate information by sex and this is not what has been proposed on the global framework. Also, in the region's countries, the lack of access to modern energy services also affects domestic work time, so it is proposed to use the information provided by the time use surveys to measure this relationship.



The overburden of domestic and care work is a barrier to the full integration of women in the labour market. For that, it is important to have a comprehensive approach when monitoring the SDGs recognizing the work for the labour market as well as the unpaid work and the links between these two. In this regard, even though the region is advancing to include in the discussion of the regional framework two indicators related to unpaid work (C-8.5b *Proportion of women spending their time exclusively on domestic work, by number of minors in the household and area of residence* y C-8.5 C *Proportion of the population aged 20-59 years not participating in the labor market for family reasons, by sex*), these were prioritized as second level. Moreover, although there are targets related to the protection of labour rights, there

are no indicators to monitor its progress. In addition, the goal recognizes the need to ensure universal access to financial services, but once again no indicators are defined to enable the evaluation of progress in relation to these targets.



In order to evaluate the development of infrastructure, including the social infrastructure, accessible to all, it would be appropriate to have indicators that account for the care infrastructure, the impact of the physical infrastructure in the generation of jobs, the reduction of time allocated to domestic activities and transfers, among others. However, no regional or global indicators have been defined to account for unequal access.



The only target with explicit language on gender equality has a follow-up indicator with gender disaggregation: 10.2.1 *Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities*. In the region this indicator was also selected as a monitoring indicator of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and is part of the framework prioritized in the SCA regional framework for the follow-up of the SDGs.



The selected indicator to track the goal 11.1<sup>8</sup> (11.1.1 *Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing*) does not allow identification of gender differences in access to adequate, safe and affordable basic housing and services.



In Goals 12, 14 and 15, there are no explicit target of gender equality or women's right. In SDG 13 there is only one target that explains the importance of addressing climate change planning and management from a women's rights approach, however, the indicator selected for monitoring this goal still lacks methodology internationally agreed.



It has been recognized that gender equality is not only a human right but the basis for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world (ECLAC, 2018a), however, some of the proposed indicators for monitoring targets that have explicit language on gender equality do not allow disaggregation by sex: 16.1.3 *Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical, (b) psychological or (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months*; 16.1.4 *Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live*; 16.3.1 *Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms*; and 16.10.1 *Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months*.

21. There are relevant issues for gender equality and for the achievement of sustainable development that were not explicit in the SDGs, therefore there is a risk that the monitoring of these issues will be diluted by defining an agenda based on the goals and indicators as proposed in Agenda 2030.
22. For example, the link between gender equality and the environmental pillar of sustainable development is not sufficiently highlighted. It is also the pillar with the smallest amount of available data for the follow-up of the SDGs. The lack of information on consumption decisions and patterns of production of women, their access, use and protection of natural resources or their possibility of participating in resources management discussions, the role of women in the processes of adaptation, mitigation and reduction of disasters linked to

<sup>8</sup> Goal 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

extreme climatological phenomena, among other issues, is a limitation for the development of relevant gender-sensitive policies.

23. The information on time-use was reduced to only of one indicator (5.4.1) of Goal 5. This could give the misconception that such an important statistical tool as time-use surveys provide information only about the amount of unpaid work, jeopardizing its prioritization in the National Statistical System. However, time-use information has shown that there is a very close link between economic poverty (SDG1) and time poverty; that most of health care is provided by households (SDG 3) and in general these activities are socially allocated to women; that the provision of early childhood education services (ODS 4) not only prepares children for primary education, but also frees up time for their caregivers; that the sexual division of labour is a structural challenge of gender inequalities (SDG 5, 8 and 10); and that the lack of services such as potable water, electricity or transport infrastructure increases unpaid work time and disproportionately affects women (SDG 6, 7, 9,11) (ECLAC, 2017 and Vaca Trigo, 2015).
24. Moreover, it is important not to lose the integrality of the 2030 Agenda and to analyze statistically the interrelations between the different goals and women’s autonomy. Therefore, the SDGs monitoring approach cannot be limited to how the different goals have been addressed, but also on what is required to ensure that progress in some SDGs is not done through means that can hinder progress in gender equality (Bidegain, 2017).
25. The existing regional architecture has made it possible to advance both in political commitments with gender equality and in the promotion of the statistical production necessary to follow up on the progress to its achievement. However, there are still outstanding regional challenges to institutionalize a systematic production of information to follow up on issues relevant to gender equality identified by the governments of the region, as shown in the following box.

Box 2: Challenges for regional statistical follow-up of Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean from a gender perspective

Objective	Outstanding Challenges
	<p>Although the goal 10.4 aims to adopt policies to achieve progressively greater equality, there are no agreed measurement processes to monitor the impacts of spending adjustments, fiscal or wage policies in the increase of women's poverty or in overloading unpaid work.</p>
	<p>While SDG follow-up indicators recognize the multidimensionality of poverty, it is important that the methodologies that are being developed incorporate dimensions that are relevant to gender analysis and recognize the uneven distribution of resources within households.</p>
	<p>It is essential to guarantee access to credit and financial services to ensure the economic autonomy of women, to eradicate poverty and to promote the growth of micro and small enterprises. Although this intention was expressed in several goals and even an indicator was defined on the global framework and then it was prioritized within the regional framework (8.10.2 <i>Proportion of adults (15 years or older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile monetary service provider</i>), it does not requires sex disaggregation, which makes gender gaps in access to these services invisible.</p>

	<p>The Agenda 2030 recognizes the need to guarantee all men and women, in particular, the poor, the same rights to new technologies, however, there is still the challenge to develop indicators that account both for access gaps and for the differentiated use of technologies of men and women.</p>
	<p>Women farmers, usually living and working in rural environments and being part of indigenous groups, face multiple discriminations and barriers to access, use and control of land and other productive resources. The measurement instruments that provide inputs to monitor the goals related to the ownership and control of resources, the sustainability of production systems and agricultural productivity, are challenged to allow disaggregation by sex, geographical location, ethnicity among others, to ensure that <i>no one is left behind</i>.</p>
	<p>Much of the health-related care is done in households and these tasks are generally socially allocated to women. To ensure quality health services for all, without overburdening women, it is necessary to formulate public policies that consider the needs of health care paid and unpaid services of all the population. In addition to strengthening the administrative records of health services, it is necessary to strengthen the time-use surveys to have a more comprehensive understanding of the demand for these services.</p>
	<p>The persistent educational challenge in the region is related to the quality of it, the reproduction of the gender roles in the educational system and the disconnection between the educational offer and the labour market needs. It is necessary to have information that allows to follow-up the gaps and segregation existing in the educational and technical-vocational training fields.</p>
	<p>In order to take advantage of the innovative potential of women, data on the participation of women in areas of science, technology, mathematics and engineering is required.</p>
	<p>The femicide indicator has many methodological and measurement challenges. The region has multiple national definitions and the administrative records used as the data source to compute the indicator, were not developed to adequately capture the phenomenon. In addition, at the country level several institutions participate in the production of these data, therefore it is important to create and strengthen inter-institutional mechanisms to follow up on this issue.</p>
	<p>Improved infrastructure including access to clean water and sanitation services, as well as access to cleaner sources of energy, contributes to reduce time spent on domestic work in households. Strengthening time-use surveys to identify how infrastructure-enhancing policies are or are not bridging gender gaps in the region remains a challenge.</p>
	<p>The region is characterized by labour markets with structural gender gaps that are expressed in horizontal and vertical segregation. There is a strong concentration of women in low-productivity sectors. It is necessary to monitor labour market patterns to verify whether women are participating equally in sectors with greater technological diversification and high added value.</p>
	<p>The development of policies with a human rights and gender equality approach to address inequalities within countries, requires data to characterize how gender inequalities intersect with ethnic, racial or age inequalities as well as the specific problems of disabled, rural and migrant women. This requirement demands the strengthening of the National Statistical Systems to assure that the existing measuring instruments are able allow such levels of disaggregation.</p>

26. It is not possible to achieve sustainable development without gender equality, and it is not possible to undertake actions to eliminate barriers that hinder girls and women fully enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities, without timely data. For this reason, it is important to work towards the production and dissemination of relevant data to monitor progress in compliance with the commitments of the Regional Gender Agenda.

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