



6ª CONFERENCIA DE ESPOSAS
DE JEFES DE ESTADO
Y DE GOBIERNO
DE LAS AMERICAS
Secretaría Pro-Tempore

La Paz, December 19, 1996
SPT/177/96

Ms. Nicole Rabner
Special Adviser to the
First Lady of the United States of America
Fax: 00-1-202-456-6244
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Rabner:

Nicole,

I have the pleasure of enclosing, herewith, for your information copy of the Report prepared by the Pro Tempore Secretariat to the Sixth Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas held in La Paz from December 3-6, 1996.

I sincerely appreciate the permanent support you extended to the Pro Tempore Secretariat in the course of our efforts this year and take the opportunity to express, on behalf of the First Lady of Bolivia and all the members of the Secretariat, our best wishes for peace and happiness in the coming holiday season of Christmas and the New Year.

Most Cordially,

N. Tamayo

Nina Tamayo de Arnal
National Coordinator

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REPORT OF THE PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT TO THE VI CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

The Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas has undertaken the challenge of attending to human and social necessities of the countries of the hemisphere with solidarity and in a committed manner. Its particular concern has been to improve the quality of the lives of women and children in the region. The focus of this action has at its foundation the concept of sustainable human development which conceives the human being as the protagonist of all actions inherent in development. That is to say, that the human being participates in an active and organized manner in the planning, carrying out and following-up activities.

In this sense, the commitments made by the Wives of Heads of State and of Government are derived from principles adopted at various meetings which, from a dynamic perspective, incorporate actions in harmony with changes on the international stage characterized by their globalization and interdependence.

Based on this premise the VI Conference has attempted to work in favor of the health of women and children at all stages of their vital cycle for universalization and quality of services in order to achieve the reduction of maternal-infantile morbidity and mortality with priority in rural and marginal areas.

At the same time, the Conference has worked to promote a hemispheric dialogue for sharing information and exchanging experiences concerning educational reforms that increase the indicators of permanence in and graduation from school by improving the quality of primary and secondary education based on the family and community.

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One issue of vital importance is contributing to the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, through the adoption of legal and educational mechanisms that grant juridical guarantees to the victims and generate a process of conscious-raising of the society as a whole on this issue.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat, during its work, has assumed responsibility for achieving the advancement of these objectives in close coordination with the Offices of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of member countries and specialized International Organizations with the aim that these issues be discussed, analyzed and enriched during the Preparatory Technical Meeting. The conclusions form part of the Agenda and the technical documentation of the current VI Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. This coordination included a working modality through the establishment of process indicators to carry-out the follow-up of the technical commitments made at previous meetings.

Because of the rotating character of the Secretariat Pro Tempore, and considering the decision taken at the 1994 Santa Lucia Conference, documents produced at the various Conferences of the Wives of Heads of State and Government were brought together. These, and those which bore a relation to other international events where similar issues were analyzed, will be entrusted to the Delegation of Panama in view of its role as Headquarters to the VII Conference.

ACTIONS IN RELATION TO INTERNACIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In her role as Pro Tempore Secretary of the VI Conference, the First Lady of Bolivia, Her Excellency Ximena Sánchez de Lozada, held working meetings with the International Organizations of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States with the purpose of gaining technical and financial assistance for the regional proposals to be presented within the framework of the Conference as well as for the follow-up of the completion indicators of the commitments made during previous meetings.

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In this regard, she met with the Executive Director of PAHO, the President of the IDB, the Secretary General of the OAS, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of UNFPA, the President of the Association of Inter-American Leagues against Cancer and the Executive Director of WFP.

TECHINICAL PREPARATORY MEETING

With the aim of meeting the mandates resulting from the last Conference, to analyze topics on the agenda, reach a consensus and develop documents to be considered by the Wives of Heads of State and Government, the Technical Preparatory Meeting was held in the City of La Paz, Bolivia between 19 and 22 August, 1996.

During its course an important exchange of opinions and suggestions was carried out, as well as initiatives for regional projects which have permitted the joining of criteria around issues of common interest to be included in the Agenda of the VI Conference.

The report of this meeting has been sent to the Offices of the Wives of Heads of State and Government and to representatives of Government. Among the specified issues which were analyzed are the following:

INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT PLANS FOR THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTLITY IN THE AMERICAS

The topic was presented by the representative of MotherCare who detailed the causes of maternal mortality together with obstetric complications and the necessity for providing special care. She explained procedures related to implementing these programs in accordance with the experience of this institution. She recommended actions and strategies including the establishment of a national and regional system for maternal attention, specifying resources for each level of necessity. She emphasized the importance of mobilizing all sectors of the society through publicity and educational campaigns focused on a significant reduction of prenatal deaths through proper pre-natal attention.

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To this end, the Pro Tempore Secretariat presented for the consideration of those in attendance the form of adherence for follow-up of the measures adopted by the Offices of Wives of Heads of State and Government and of Government Representatives in this regard. The objective was to determine the level of participation. The results of the evaluation of this form will be presented during the meeting of the VI Conference.

REGIONAL PROJECT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY

The UNFPA representative who introduced this topic indicated that the Organization assigns funds to national programs by country in 4-5 year periods of execution.

The general objective of this is focused on national policies and programs for the prevention of early pregnancy based on the exchange of experiences and information at the national, regional and sub-regional levels. In this regard, the representative indicated the availability of subsidies for a regional project that would involve various countries, emphasizing that a specific regional project was required for the disbursing of funds. It was agreed to establish a deadline by which countries would ratify their interest in participating in the regional program. Consequently, the Secretariat Pro Tempore was notified of the adherence of various countries to this regional initiative.

REGIONAL PROPOSAL TO SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION FROM IRON DEFICIENCY IN THE AMERICAS

This proposal of Bolivia was included by the initiative of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas in order to support plans for the reduction of maternal mortality through the fortification of mass-consumption food-stuffs. In this way, a contribution was made to the reduction of nutritional anemia during pregnancy and in children, in accordance with the reality and nutritional habits of each country.

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The combined action of Governments, civil society, specialized International Organizations and, primarily, the participation of women from the countryside, to achieve the success of this proposal which has as its reach juridical, technical-scientific, nutritional and economic objectives and activities with specialized international organizations and national nutritional policies is required.

During the course of the meeting, it was stated that international sources of financing might exist for the regional implementation of the Project.

PREVENTION OF MORTALITY BY CANCER IN WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS.

With regard to this issue, the PAHO Representative, upon presenting the topic, indicated that the objective of a timely detection program is to reduce mortality from cancer. Its basic strategy consists in offering a screening proof identifying those women who could have the disease.

She suggested the necessity of adopting a common Plan permitting the optimum use of existing resources such as channeling external support. For his part, the Representative of the Association of Ibero-American Leagues Against Cancer presented an evaluation report concerning the Latin-American Program against Cancer. This is the same as that carried out as a Pilot Program in three countries of the region, indicating that this program obtained the expected results of increasing the level of knowledge of the general populace with respect to cancer and measures for its prevention. This will permit the planning of strategies to combat this illness.

EVALUATION STUDY OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MEASLES AND IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS

The Representative of PAHO/WHO presented this topic, giving information about countries' progress in the eradication of measles in the Americas. She stated that the impact of massive vaccination campaigns resulted in the significant reduction of this disease. There is a disposition on the part of Governments and International Organizations to give economic support to strengthening the watch over and elimination of measles.

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The Delegation of Panama and member of the Pro Tempore Secretariat introduced the follow-up instrument for the evaluation report of the Plan of Action. This instrument had as its objective requesting from each country information and specific indicators for each part of the Plan of Action on the achievements relating to the indicated objective. The Pro Tempore Secretariat will present these results as a specific report at the VI Conference.

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented the proposal for the Regional Incentive to Support Literacy of Regional Women of the Americas taking into account that the rural girl is society's most disadvantaged person. She is marginalized from work opportunities and decision making. Because of this, it is necessary to take measures directed toward implementing public and private policies to eliminate this vulnerability. This proposal was placed before the consideration of invited delegations so that they might join in this initiative.

The Representative of the United States introduced the issue and stated that the initiative PERA (Association to Revitalize the Education of the Americas), had been launched at the V Conference in Paraguay by the First Lady of the United States. She indicated that the concept of the association highlights the interdependence of the Nations of America and of various social sectors, institutions and groups of which it is composed, Governments, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, national and international networks which work in the field of education with the objective of transforming education in a priority for the Continent's public and private policies.

She recalled that the First Lady of the United States of America pledged the economic support of her Government, through USAID, to finance and foster this project.

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PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE

The representative of PAHO/WHO introduced the topic indicating that deaths resulting from violence against women, which had increased in the region at an alarming rate had become a public health problem in the Americas.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat introduced the regional initiative to prevent, sanction and eliminate intrafamily violence through adoption of measures aimed at typifying intrafamily violence in penal codes, to assure the protection and temporal shelter for a woman and her children, victims of violent family situations and to foster mass media campaigns dealing with the issue in a direct and un prejudiced manner.

A number of delegations explained the situation existing in their countries, agreeing about the necessity of facing this problem from a multidisciplinary and truly participatory manner. The results of their interventions will be summarized for presentation during the VI Conference.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND IN DECISION-MAKING

This topic was presented by the Representative of the Inter-American Commission on Women of the Organization of American States. She stated that development is only possible if the participation of all sectors of society and that of women were taken into account.

Various delegations, in detailing the experience of their countries, highlighted progress made in this area and the necessity of institutionalizing the participation of women in decision-making as their right and as an intrinsic element in society's development.

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On the other hand, the Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank gave a summary of the initiative concerning the leadership and participation of women which will be held in 1997 with the cooperation of the Government of Norway, UNIFEM, UNICEF, OAS, CIM AND UNDP. It is expected that responses to this initiative will be received through the Pro Tempore Secretariat.

PROPOSAL FOR FOLLOW-UP TO THE PLATFORM OF ACTION OF THE VI WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Pro Tempore Secretariat introduced the proposal of the instrument for the report on follow-up to the actions of the Wives of Heads of State and Government concerning the Plan of Action of the Beijing Conference. The strategic objectives of the Plan of Action emphasize attention to different areas focused on women's promotion of, and participation in the most important issues: health, education and the rights of women and children.

It was decided that the issues of health, education and the elimination of violence against women are issues of coincidence common to the Beijing Platform of Action and the thematic axes of meetings of Wives of Heads of State and of Government.

The Pro Tempore Secretariat presented the follow-up instrument containing process indicators for each topic. These will be introduced during the course of the Conference.

PROPOSAL FOR THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT

An initiative of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, made up of Bolivia, Paraguay and Panama, with the aim of providing continuity and systematization to the work which the Wives of Heads of State and Government are carrying-out. In this regard, it was suggested:

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-to maintain the present frequency of meetings, with the title, **International Forum of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas,**

-to organize a structure made up of an intercommunicative network; the Headquarters Country to be its coordinating organization.

-to participate in the follow-up and monitoring of commitments made, to be the responsibility of the country concluding its mandate, and the presentation of a list of possible topics for the new Agenda, which will be the responsibility of the future Headquarters.

-to study the installation of an electronic Internet network to facilitate the rapid exchange of information among the Offices of Wives of Heads of State of Government.

-to develop a publication containing the resolutions and recommendations of the meetings as well as other topics of interest.

This proposal will be considered for adoption and put into effect upon the closing of the VI Conference, with the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the VII Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas taking responsibility for implementing this mechanism.

DRAFT DECLARATION OF LA PAZ

The Draft Declaration of La Paz was circulated during the Preparatory Technical Meeting as was the Outline for the Plan of Action of the VI Conference. They received observations from the various countries participating in this event. The Pro Tempore Secretariat considered these comments and combined the final documents for their approval.

COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH OFFICES OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Bolivia, in its role as Pro Tempore Secretariat, initiated a flow of communication with the different Offices of Wives of Heads of State and Government with the aim of sharing information on various topics of the Agenda, as well as those concerning the organization and manner of the meeting.

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At the same time, the following forms were sent to countries:

- Follow-up form to the commitments made by the Wives of Heads of State and Government. This information was important in developing the report of the First Lady of Bolivia;

- Follow-up Form on the actions of Wives of Heads of State and Government with regard to the Beijing Plan of Action;

- Form of Adherence concerning regional initiatives and projects; and,

- Participation Form for Plenary Meeting and Working Groups.

The objective of these documents was to systematize information and to identify the interests and expectations of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF THE RURAL WOMEN

The Secretariat Pro Tempore received a communication from Her Majesty, Queen Fabiola of Belgium, in her role as President of the

International Board of Directors for the Economic Advancement of Rural Women. She developed recommendations emphasizing:

the access of rural women to education, training, diversified and adapted to their specific needs; equality of access to sanitary services, to property and credit, and concrete participation through associations in projects concerning them. At the same time, she called upon the community to develop concrete measures to allow for the improvement of levels of life for rural women. At the request of Queen Fabiola, the Pro Tempore Secretariat will circulate documentation of the International Board of Directors.

Finally, the Secretariat Pro Tempore of the VI Conference expresses its gratitude to the following International Organizations for their on-going technical and financial support: the Pan-American Health Organization, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the International Institute for

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Agricultural Cooperation, the United Nations Development Program, the World Food Program and the United Nations Children's Organization and all the bilateral agencies that contributed towards this effort.

In conclusion, the Pro Tempore Secretariat expresses its special recognition to the technical and advisory teams of the Offices of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas for their valuable support of coordination activities undertaken for the success of the current Conference.

La Paz, 3 December 1996

Nina Tamayo de Arnal
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SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

DECLARATION OF LA PAZ

WE, THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, MEETING IN THE CITY OF LA PAZ BETWEEN 3 AND 6 DECEMBER, 1966, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ANALYZING "THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT" AND IN AGREEING UPON ACTIONS, INSPIRED IN DIALOGUE, SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. **WE RECOGNIZE** THAT THE SUBJECTS OF SOCIAL POLICIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZED AND ACTIVE MANNER IN THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT EVERYONE MAY DEVELOP TO THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO RECEIVE PROPER CARE INCLUDING NUTRITION, HOUSING, HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT AND RECREATION.

2. **WE RECOGNIZE**, NEVERTHELESS, THAT ON OUR CONTINENT BARRIERS EXIST FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE SECTORS OF OUR POPULATION, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS.

3. **WE BELIEVE** THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES SHOULD WORK WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND SOLIDARITY PROMOTING CONDITIONS OF OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY THAT WILL ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF ABILITIES, MEANS OF ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

4. **WE RECOGNIZE** THE LINK BETWEEN SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WHOSE INTER-RELATIONSHIP MAKES POSSIBLE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT, AND GUARANTEES THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PRESENT GENERATIONS WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE WELFARE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

5. **WE REAFFIRM** OUR COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT THAT SEEK COMPLETE AND FAIR PARTICIPATION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE SOCIAL SECTORS.

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WE OFFER OUR MANAGEMENT AND MOBILIZING ABILITY TO CONTINUE FULFILLING COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF EACH COUNTRY, MADE AT THE MEETINGS OF VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, SANTA LUCIA AND PARAGUAY, AND ALSO TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN, HELD IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER OF 1990; THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN JUNE OF 1992; THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HELD IN VIENNA IN JUNE OF 1993; THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN CAIRO IN SEPTEMBER OF 1994; THE SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, HELD IN COPENHAGEN IN MARCH OF 1995; THE IV WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, HELD IN BEIJING IN SEPTEMBER OF 1995; THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT HELD IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1996; AND THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, HELD IN MIAMI, RELATING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS THOSE EXPRESSED IN AGENDA 21 CONCERNING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

7. WE COMMIT OUR FIRM SUPPORT TO SOUND AND EFFECTIVE SOCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE FOSTER, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

8. WE HIGHLIGHT THE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL VALUE OF OUR SOCIETIES AS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IN FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES DIRECTED TOWARD WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF HARMONY, PEACE, EQUITY, PLURALISM AND DIVERSITY.

9. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO JOIN EFFORTS, COORDINATE ACTIONS, AND SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT.

10. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH IN OUR POPULATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR WOMEN, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO REACH THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF OUR SOCIETIES, FOR WHICH WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AIMED AT SOLVING CRITICAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE AMERICAS.

11. WE REITERATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE AND DELIVERY BY TRAINED PERSONNEL; THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES ABLE TO SOLVE OBSTETRIC EMERGENCIES; SEXUAL EDUCATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH*, AND DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY, ACCESSIBLE AND HIGH QUALITY FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AVAILABLE TO COUPLES. FURTHERMORE, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND AT ALL STAGES OF WOMEN'S LIVES.

* Guatemala considers that the term "reproductive health," in accordance with its national legislation, should be understood as "integrated health".

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12. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO MOBILIZE NATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM MEASLES AND TO ERADICATE THIS ILLNESS FROM THE AMERICAS. WE APPLAUD THE EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES ATTAINED BY ALL OUR COUNTRIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS ILLNESS AND ALL THOSE ILLNESSES THAT CAN BE PREVENTED THROUGH IMMUNIZATION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ACTIONS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH COVERAGE OF IMMUNIZATION SO THAT THE GOAL OF ERADICATING MEASLES CAN BE MET BY THE YEAR 2000.

13. WE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL PROJECT DIRECTED TO THE REDUCTION OF MALNUTRITION FROM MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND TO THE HIGH RATES OF ANEMIA AND THEIR SEVERE CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

14. WE EMPHASIZE THE PRINCIPLE ROLE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ORDER FOR PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, BROADEN THEIR SPECTRUM OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES, STIMULATE THEIR CREATIVITY, IMPROVE THEIR INCOME, AND PROMOTE THEIR ADAPTATION TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES THAT WILL IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF WOMEN.

15. WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS, PROMOTING BROAD AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND ADOPTING BETTER INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO SHARE INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE MOST EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITY AND REQUIREMENTS OF EACH COUNTRY.

16. WE REITERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND INTEGRATED TRAINING OF WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND PROGRAMS THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO BENEFIT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRIES.

17. WE RECOGNIZE INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH AFFECTS IN A SPECIAL MANNER WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND SOCIAL GROUPS. FOR THIS REASON, WE URGE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC POLICIES ORIENTED TOWARDS CONFRONTING THIS PROBLEM IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER.

18. WE URGE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC POLICIES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS TO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND TO POWER STRUCTURES IN ALL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE RECOMMEND FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORIENTATION AND MEASURES AGREED UPON BY GOVERNMENTS AT THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN HELD IN BEIJING IN 1995 WHICH ARE DETAILED IN CLAUSE "G" OF THE PLATFORM OF ACTION, WHICH RESULTED FROM THIS CONFERENCE.

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19. **WE DECIDE** TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT THROUGH ACTIVE MECHANISMS OF CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION, TO FOLLOW UP ON THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT ALL MEETINGS, AND TO FOSTER THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE OUR ACTIONS.

20. **WE RECOGNIZE** THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES IN FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS DIRECTED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRIES. WE URGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO REACH THE OBJECTIVES PROPOSED IN THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS.

21. **WE EXPRESS** OUR SATISFACTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA FOR THE SIGNATURE OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN OSLO, NORWAY ON DECEMBER 4, 1996 AMONG THE SECTORS INVOLVED, WHICH CONSTITUTES A DECISIVE STEP IN THE PEACE PROCESS OF THIS FRATERNAL NATION.

22. **WE ACCEPT** THE KIND OFFER OF THE FIRST LADIES OF PANAMA AND CHILE THAT PANAMA BE THE SEAT OF THE VII CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS IN 1997, AND THAT CHILE BE THE SEAT OF THE VIII CONFERENCE IN 1998.

23. **WE THANK** THE FIRST LADY OF BOLIVIA, AND, THROUGH HER, EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY FOR THEIR WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY.

24. SIGNED IN THE CITY OF LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, WITH TWO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH, ON THE SIXTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF DECEMBER OF THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX.

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Y DE GOBIERNO
DE LAS AMERICAS
Secretaría Pro-Tempore

WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada
Ximena Iturralde de Sánchez de Lozada
BOLIVIA

María Teresa Carrasco de Wasmoy
María Teresa Carrasco de Wasmoy
PARAGUAY

Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares
Dora Boyd de Pérez Balladares
PANAMA

WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Patricia Bird
Patricia Bird
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Ruth Cardoso
Ruth Cardoso
BRAZIL

Marta Larraechea de Frei
Marta Larraechea de Frei
CHILE

Jacquín Strauss de Samper
Jacquín Strauss de Samper
COLOMBIA

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Josette Altmann de Figueres

**Josette Altmann de Figueres
COSTA RICA**

Elizabeth de Calderón Sol

**Elizabeth de Calderón Sol
EL SALVADOR**

*Maria Mitchell
in behalf of Hillary Rodham Clinton*

**Hillary Rodham Clinton
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Maria Marietta Mitchell

**Maria Marietta Mitchell
GRENADA**

Bessie Watson de Reina

**Bessie Watson de Reina
HONDURAS**

Lady Ivy Sylvia Lucille Cooke

**Lady Ivy Sylvia Lucille Cooke
JAMAICA**

REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT

Zelmira Mireya Regazzoli

**Zelmira Mireya Regazzoli
ARGENTINA**

Elizabeth Arnold

**Elizabeth Arnold
BELIZE**

Jean Augustine

**Jean Augustine
CANADA**

Yolanda Ferrer Gómez

**Yolanda Ferrer Gómez
CUBA**

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Ximena Martínez de Pérez
Ximena Martínez de Pérez
ECUADOR

Chussy Ordoñez
Chussy Ordoñez
GUATEMALA

María Carmen Oñate
María Carmen Oñate
MEXICO

William Ramón Baez Saens
William Ramón Baez Saens
NICARAGUA

Martha Chávez de Ocampo
Martha Chávez de Ocampo
PERU

Ismay Patricia D'León
Ismay Patricia D'León
SURINAME

Nelly Leites de Moraes
Nelly Leites de Moraes
URUGUAY

Elsie Schmilinsky de Altimari
Elsie Schmilinsky de Altimari
VENEZUELA

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Secretaría Pro-tempore

La Paz, December 6, 1996

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1.1 TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE FULL EXERCISE OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIONS WHICH SUPPORT SOCIAL POLICIES OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, PRINCIPALLY IN FAVOR OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

1.2 TO UNITE COMMON EFFORTS AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS APPROVED IN THE DECLARATION OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS IN THE PLATFORMS AND PLANS OF ACTION OF CAIRO, COPENHAGEN, THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, BEIJING AND IN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN.

2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

STRATEGIES

TO ENERGIZE THE CAPACITY FOR CONVOCAION THAT THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO FOSTER THE



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IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE REFERRED TO.

TO INCREASE THE ROLE AS COMMUNICATORS OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS TO BROADEN AND STRENGTHEN THE PROMOTION OF THE OBJECTIVES ADOPTED.

TO PROMOTE THE RAISING OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ORGANIZATIONS TO PERMIT FURTHERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS THAT FAVOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS IN THEIR FUNCTION AS FACILITATORS OF A COMMON EFFORT BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS WITH THE AIM OF REACHING THE NECESSARY CONSENSUS TO PERMIT THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT CARRYING OUT OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

TO GIVE INCENTIVE TO THE EXCHANGE OF INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND TRAINING WITH THE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS IN FACING THE COMMON PROBLEMS THAT TROUBLE THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS.

3. THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

STRATEGIES

TO PROMOTE THE FORMULATION, REVISION, STRENGTHENING AND FOLLOW-UP OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION OF MATERNAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN THE AMERICAS.



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TO FOSTER THE MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS, SO THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE, FROM THEIR AREAS OF COMPETENCE, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANS FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF MEASURES WITH THE GREATEST IMPACT AIMED AT THE ACCELERATED REDUCTION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY.

TO GIVE CONTINUITY TO AND INCREASE THE PROJECT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, INCORPORATING STRATEGIES LIKE EDUCATION ABOUT SEXUALITY, STRENGTHENING SELF-ESTEEM, AND OTHERS, WITH MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERSECTORAL ACTIVITIES AND WITH THE WIDE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADOLESCENTS.

TO ADHERE TO AND FOSTER THE PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MALNUTRITION DUE TO DEFICIENCY OF MICRONUTRIENTS (IRON, CALCIUM, IODINE, ZINC, VITAMIN A AND FLUORIDE) THROUGH SUPPLEMENTS GIVEN TO GROUPS AT RISK, FORTIFICATION OF FOOD-STUFFS, DIVERSIFICATION OF DIET AND NUTRITIONAL FOOD EDUCATION.

TO PROMOTE IN COUNTRIES NATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMS AND LOCAL PROJECTS TO INCREASE COVERAGE IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF GYNECOLOGICAL CANCER, IN PARTICULAR, OF UTERINE CANCER.

TO CONTINUE GIVING SUPPORT TO THE PROGRAM "LATIN AMERICA AGAINST CANCER," WHICH IS CARRIED OUT IN THE REGION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS AND ALICC.



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TO CONTINUE SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MEASLES BY THE YEAR 2000 AND TO SUPPORT PERFECTING THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL WATCH SYSTEM.

TO IMPLEMENT SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR THE REDUCTION OF MATERNAL AND INFANTILE DEATHS DUE TO ANEMIA FROM IRON DEFICIENCY AND THE LACK OF OTHER MICRONUTRIENTS, AND TO SUPPORT A RESEARCH PROJECT TO EVALUATE THE LEVEL OF DEFICIENCIES OF ELEMENTS CONTAINING OIL IN PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE.

4. INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE

STRATEGIES

TO IMPLEMENT THE "REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT THE PREVENTION, SANCTION AND ELIMINATION OF INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE."

TO WORK WITH ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED MODELS AGAINST INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE.

TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMULGATION OF APPROPRIATE LAWS TO GUARANTEE LEGAL PROTECTION TO PERSONS AFFECTED BY INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE.

TO FOSTER CONSIDERING RATIFYING THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION TO PREVENT, SANCTION AND ERADICATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET DONE SO, AND TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE IN ALL THE REGION.



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TO PROPOSE STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION OF INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE AND THE PROMOTION OF NON-VIOLENT STYLES OF LIFE THROUGH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION.

TO REQUEST THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA.

TO DISSEMINATE AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL THE COMMITMENT OF THE WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS TO SUPPORT THE PREVENTION, SANCTION AND ELIMINATION OF INTRAFAMILY VIOLENCE.

5. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND IN THE TAKING OF DECISIONS

STRATEGIES

-TO DEVELOP PUBLIC POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN.

TO IMPLEMENT THE "REGIONAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND IN THE TAKING OF DECISIONS."

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COORDINATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND THE TAKING OF DECISIONS.

TO ADOPT MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE THROUGH MECHANISMS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OF A TEMPORAL NATURE.



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TO CONTRIBUTE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN SO THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND IN THE TAKING OF DECISIONS.

TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN INFORMATION, SENSITIZATION AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGNS TO ACHIEVE AN INCREASE IN THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POWER STRUCTURE AND THE TAKING OF DECISIONS.

TO WATCH OVER AND EVALUATE THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY WOMEN AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

TO PROMOTE THE INCLUSION OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND THE EXERCISE OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP OF WOMEN IN ALL PROGRAMS LINKED TO THEM.

6. THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

STRATEGIES

TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE IN ALL ITS FORMS (PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SEXUAL AND LABOR).

TO FOSTER THE ILO PROPOSAL FOR THE ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOR OF BOYS AND GIRLS YOUNGER THAN 12 YEARS OF AGE.

TO ENCOURAGE THE INTERCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS AND WITH AGENCIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO STRENGTHEN THE MECHANISMS OF SYSTEMATIZATION OF INDICATORS IN HEALTH,



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EDUCATION AND, IN GENERAL, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, WITHIN
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE "SANTIAGO AGREEMENT."

TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN WATCH SYSTEMS FOR
COMPLYING WITH THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS
(AS, FOR EXAMPLE, CHILDREN'S DEFENSE COUNSELS, JURIDICAL
ATTENTION, RECREATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDS
OF THE FAMILY TELEPHONES).

-TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE ANALYSIS OF
MATTERS PERTAINING TO JURIDICAL PROTECTION OF MINORS
AND TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN
TRANSGRESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR SITUATIONS.



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ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND OF GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

As of 1991, since the 1st. Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas, held in Venezuela, to the 6th Conference which took place in Bolivia, the increasing convenience of exchanging experiences and knowledge on the social reality of our countries and the richness of new experiences shared and absorbed by each of us and by the technical support teams have been observed throughout our meetings.

Our meetings have now lost their initial isolated character to enter a phase in which health, education, violence and participation are social problems to be addressed scientifically through professional and continuous methods. Thus, the organization demanded the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas and the Government representatives must also follow the same guidelines:

Thus, the organizational proposal to be approved in the 6th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas and Government representatives is sustained by "basic premises" for the Organization of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, with the following characteristics:

- Organization of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, integrated of the host country, previous host country and following host country, with a flowing, rapid and dynamic communication structure, of which the host country is the coordinating body, responsible to follow up of the recommendations adopted in the Conferences of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas, together with the other member countries.

The other two members (the previous host country and the following host country) of the Pro Tempore Secretariat, will have the following functions:

- The previous host country must assist and support, during one year, the efforts of the host country to control the execution of the commitments assumed at the meeting held in that country.

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Coordinate this effort with the host country to launch the action plan agreed upon in the Conference and set limits to the concrete actions corresponding to each country.

- The country chosen as the host country of the meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas and the Government representatives must submit for consideration in the Preparatory Technical Meeting in its country, a list of new social issues from which, after analysis and discussion, the actions to be included in the programs implemented by the First Ladies shall be selected. These proposals must be backed by pertinent scientific studies and research.
- Depending on existing possibilities, two annual operative coordination meetings are proposed, sponsored by cooperation agencies of the coordination teams of each country to discuss the following agenda:
 - Monitoring of the programs to be implemented
 - Availability of new funding
 - Organization of inter-country training and discussion meetings
- The Conferences of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas and Government representatives will continue to be held once a year, as an international event for discussion of a priority issue. It is recommended, in according to the possibilities and interest to hold this Conference simultaneously with other initiatives: Congresses, gatherings, seminars, etc., organized by one of the member countries, to profit from travel schedules, lower costs, raise funds, etc.

Based on the aforementioned, it is intended to consolidate a permanent organizational and functional structure of the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas to allow the development of national and international actions aimed at transforming the social sector, contributing to the official sector and civil society and enhancing the quality of life of the population of the continent.

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The organizational structure to be adopted by the 6th Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Government of the Americas is put into effect at the closing of this event. The Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Seventh Conference shall then be in charge of the implementation of this structure.

Approved in the city of La Paz on the fifth day of the month of December of the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six.

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

La Paz, December 18, 1996

On the occasion of the Sixth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas held from December 3-6, 1996, we had the opportunity to approve and sign the Declaration of La Paz, the Plan of Action and the proposal for the Organizational Strengthening of the Pro Tempore Secretariat. Please find enclosed for your information the aforementioned documents.

During the Conference, we were able to reaffirm our commitment to join efforts for a work program that seeks more equity in our countries through access to health and education services, development opportunities and harmony in the family.

In thanking you for your valuable participation in this international event and with my best personal wishes for you and your distinguished family during the coming holiday season of Christmas and the New Year, I am,

Most Cordially,

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La Paz, Diciembre 18 de 1996
SPT/165/96

Estimada Hillary

En ocasión de la Sexta Conferencia de Esposas de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de las Américas, que se llevó a cabo del 3 al 6 de diciembre del presente año, tuvimos oportunidad de aprobar y suscribir la Declaración de La Paz, el Plan de Acción y la propuesta de Fortalecimiento Organizativo de la Secretaría Pro Tempore. Adjunto para su conocimiento dichos documentos.

Considero que durante la Conferencia logramos reafirmar el compromiso de unir nuestros esfuerzos para alcanzar líneas de trabajo que busquen una mayor equidad en nuestros países a través del acceso a los servicios de salud, educación, a las oportunidades de desarrollo y al equilibrio en el seno de la familia.

Al agradecerle por su valiosa participación en este encuentro internacional y a tiempo de augurarle mis mejores deseos junto a su distinguida familia en las próximas fiestas de Navidad y Año Nuevo, hago propicia la oportunidad para reiterarle las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Ximenes de Sánchez de Lozada

Excma. Señora
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Primera Dama de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica
Washington-Estados Unidos

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