

Priority policies for reducing gender inequalities

This section provides examples of advances made in favor of women's Human Rights when formulating laws, plans, strategies, public policies and programmes within the conceptual framework of women's autonomy.



Various countries in the region have reached advances for achieving equality between women and men, especially in legislation and developing equality plans.

Alternative actions in favour of equality between women and men have been intended to align with the 2030 Agenda, the Montevideo Strategy and the main international and regional standards.



For example, between 2016 and 2019, eight countries developed women's equality plans that incorporate the focuses, pillars and measures of the Montevideo Strategy.

Moreover, as of 2019 at least six other countries defined 2030 as their policy horizon, thereby aligning their plans with the 2030 Agenda for Development and the Sustainable Development Goals





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Women's economic autonomy

Various Latin American and Caribbean countries have taken actions in favour of women's economic autonomy that have had a positive impact on women's paid workforce participation and living conditions.

These have included comprehensive care systems and steps to both narrow gender pay gaps and regulate the labour market for paid domestic work.



Such advances do not suffice. More actions are necessary to address issues such as the need to protect labour benefits related to maternity and breastfeeding, promote paternity leave arrangements that allow men to shoulder their co-responsibility in caring for newborns during their first weeks of life, provide more credit and adopt better laws on land ownership for rural women.

Women's physical autonomy

Major advances in women's physical autonomy have been achieved in the drafting and adoption of comprehensive laws against gender violence and child marriage as well as in eliminating penalties against voluntary termination of pregnancy.

It is also important, however, to reinforce and expand such laws and verify that they are reflected in public plans and policies on the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights and in avoiding women being subjected to any form of harassment and violence.





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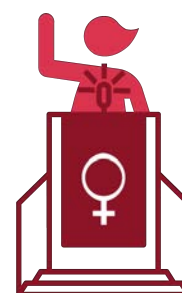
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Actions are also needed against teenage pregnancies and femicide, tasks that are still pending in the region.

Women's decision-making autonomy

On the level of women's decision-making autonomy, laws in support of gender parity in candidacy selection has contributed to a considerable increase in the number of women in public office, however in some countries women account for only 30% or less of such officials.



Such reasons underscore the need for incentives to expand women's participation in decision-making positions, not only in public office but also in the workforce. Such efforts must extend to the private and public sectors, academia, labor unions and community associations and at all levels and in all spheres.



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