CELAC-EU Dialogue on Gender Issues
Workshop on Violence against Women
Future steps

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CELAC – EU Dialogue on Gender Issues: an Argentine initiative

- Since 2002, Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU have established an “Strategic Partnership”.

- This Partnership is based on a set of common values: democracy, Rule of Law, promotion and protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

- There is a long history of collaboration on Human Rights in international fora between Latin American and the Caribbean and the EU (UNGA Resolution on Rights of the Child).

- Since 2010, Argentina has been proposing to establish a formal Dialogue on Gender Issues, based on shared values and common experiences.

- The First CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government (Santiago, Chile, January 2013) incorporated a bi-regional dialogue on gender issues to the Plan of Action.

- By invitation of the CELAC pro Tempore Presidency, Argentina coordinates this Dialogue.
Official Launching Event of the bi-regional Dialogue

• On November 27\textsuperscript{th}, 2013 a Launching event of the bi-regional Dialogue on Gender Issues took place in Buenos Aires.

• Strong political signals from both sides regarding the importance of this Dialogue:
  – EU representation at a high political level: Mr. Ronald Schaeffer, Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service, Ambassador Alfonso Diez Torres, Chief of the EU Delegation in Argentina.
  – EU Member States: experts from capitals, diplomats from EU Embassies in Buenos Aires.
  – Argentina: Undersecretary of State for External Policy, Ambassador María del Carmen Squeff, Undersecretary of State for Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence against Women, Ms. Silvina Zabala.
  – CELAC: Pro Tempore Presidency (represented by the Special Representative of Argentina for Gender Issues, Ambassador Gloria Bender).
  – CELAC countries: experts from all CELAC countries (but 4...)
Workshop on Violence against Women: Femicide / Feminicide
Buenos Aires, November 28th and 29th, 2013

- Three Panels:
  - “Legislation on Femicide / Feminicide”
  - “Protocols and Handbooks for action in Specific Fields”
  - “Femicide / Feminicide: collecting data and statistics”

- Violence against women is not a domestic issue, but has transpired to the public sphere: strong need for action!

- Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union can benefit from the exchange of experiences and good practices both in legislation and in action (prevention, assistance to victims, punishment).

- CELAC-EU bi-regional dialogue can foster international cooperation to promote women’s rights and to eradicate all forms of violence against women.
The way forward:
proposal for a meeting during next CSW session

• Both regions agree that it is important to continue the exchanges.

• Argentina proposed to CELAC and EU countries to hold a meeting during the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 10\textsuperscript{th} to 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2014).

• Issue to be discussed: the future of gender issues after 2015 (in view of the present building of the agenda after the Millennium Development Goals).

• Structure: single panel, with two experts from each region.

• Waiting for a response from capitals!

• Argentina is confident in a positive answer!
Which role for civil society?

• Participation of civil society is a sensitive question for both regions!
• National agencies in both regions maintain a regular dialogue with civil society: contributions are always welcome!
• There is an extensive network of contacts between civil society organizations from both regions: need to use these contacts!
• EULAC Foundation was present at the Workshop: the Foundation can also broker participation of civil society!
• Civil society has a special participation in CELAC-EU Summits (special events, meeting with Heads of State and Government).
• Both CELAC and the EU are open to receiving the contribution of civil society along the road: in SOMs, through the CELAC pro Tempore Presidency and the EU structures.
Thank you for your attention

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