

Discussion on the themes of the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina 2022) Agenda item 5

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UNITED NATIONS



Meeting of the
**Presiding Officers
of the Regional
Conference on Women**
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The urgency of moving towards a care society

- **Gender inequality is a structural feature** in the region, and is at the root of the unsustainability of the prevailing development model.
- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated the structural challenges of gender inequality and **has highlighted the unfair organization of care** within society and the need to move towards a **development model** that puts care and the sustainability of life at its centre.
- ECLAC has called for faster progress towards **economic, climate and gender justice and a transition to a care society** that:
 - prioritizes the sustainability of life and care for the planet
 - guarantees the rights of people who require or provide care, including self-care
 - that works to reduce the precariousness related to the care sector;
 - that raises awareness of the multiplier effects of the care economy on well-being and its ability to drive a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability

Commitments in the Regional Gender Agenda to overcome the structural challenges of inequality and achieve women's autonomy and gender equality

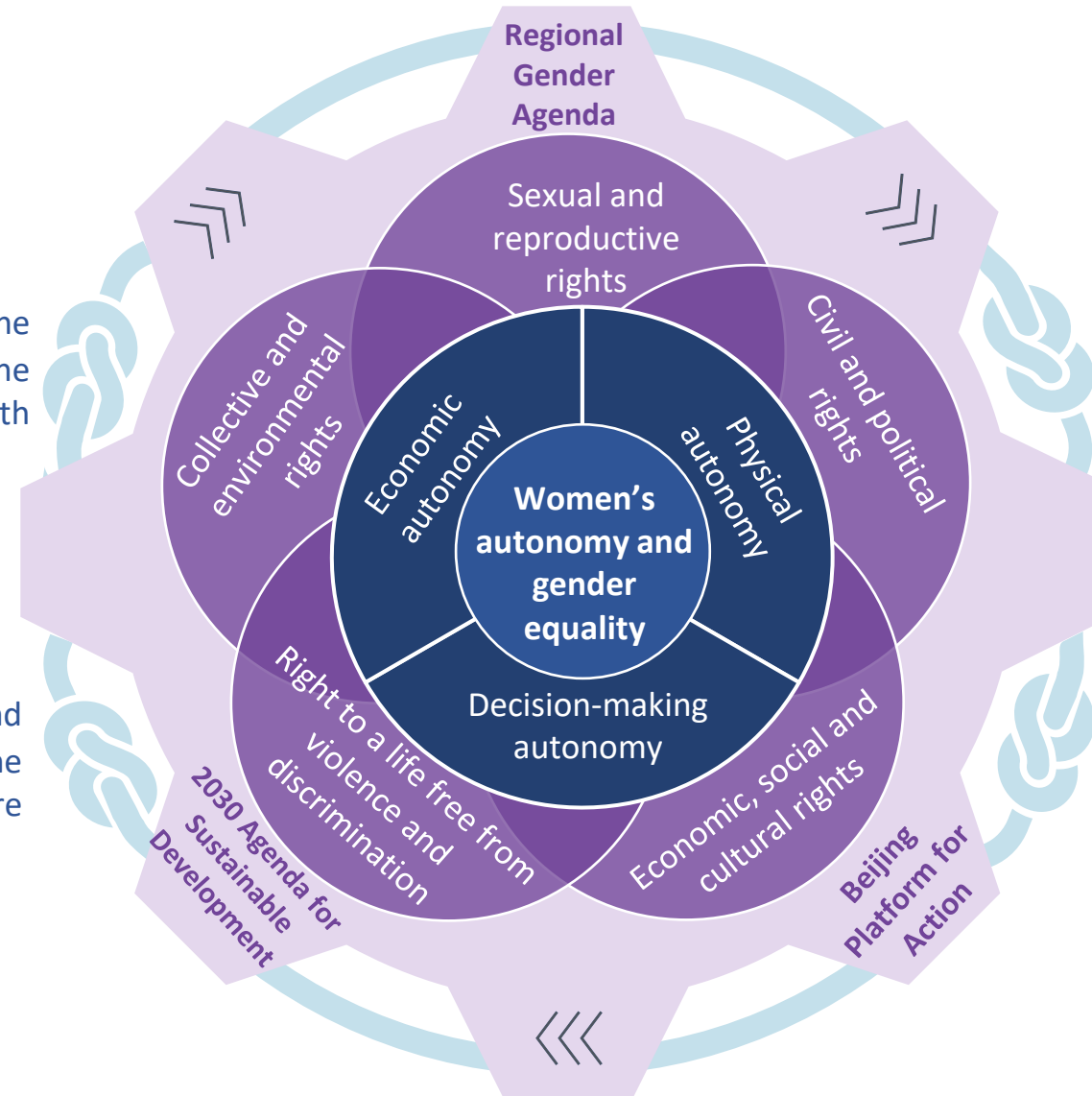
Structural challenges of inequality

1) Socioeconomic inequality and the persistence of poverty, in the framework of exclusionary growth

2) Discriminatory, violent and patriarchal cultural patterns and the predominance of the culture of privilege

4) Concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere

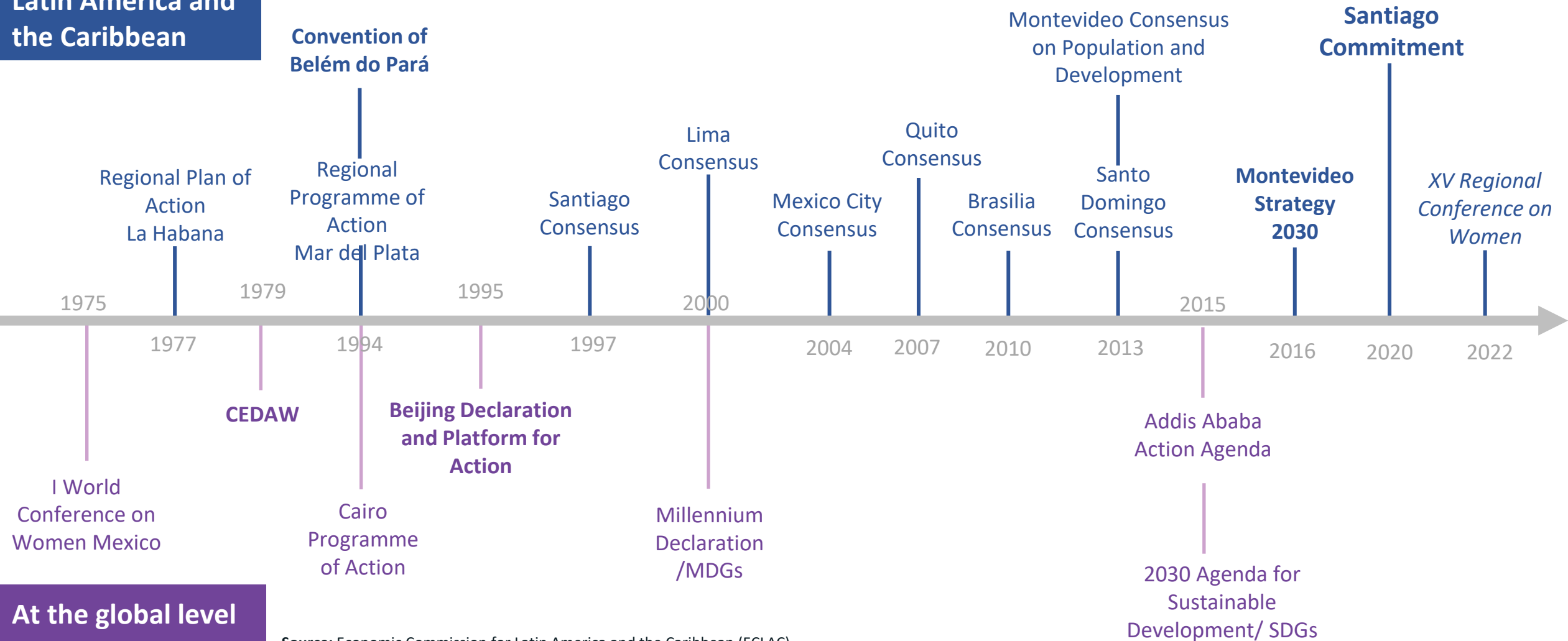
3) Rigid sexual division of labour and unfair social organization of care



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The Regional Gender Agenda and global commitments to achieve gender equality

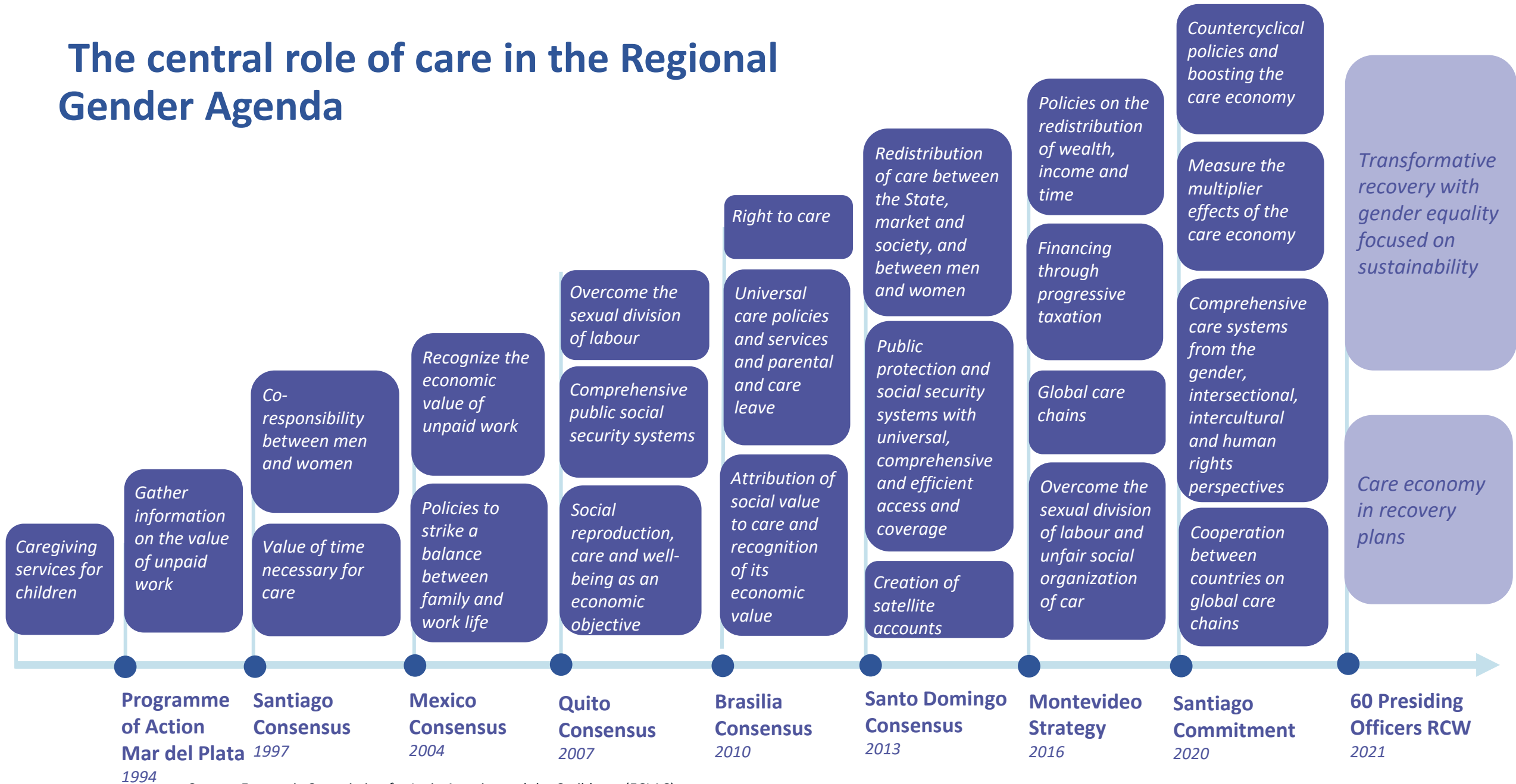
Latin America and the Caribbean



At the global level

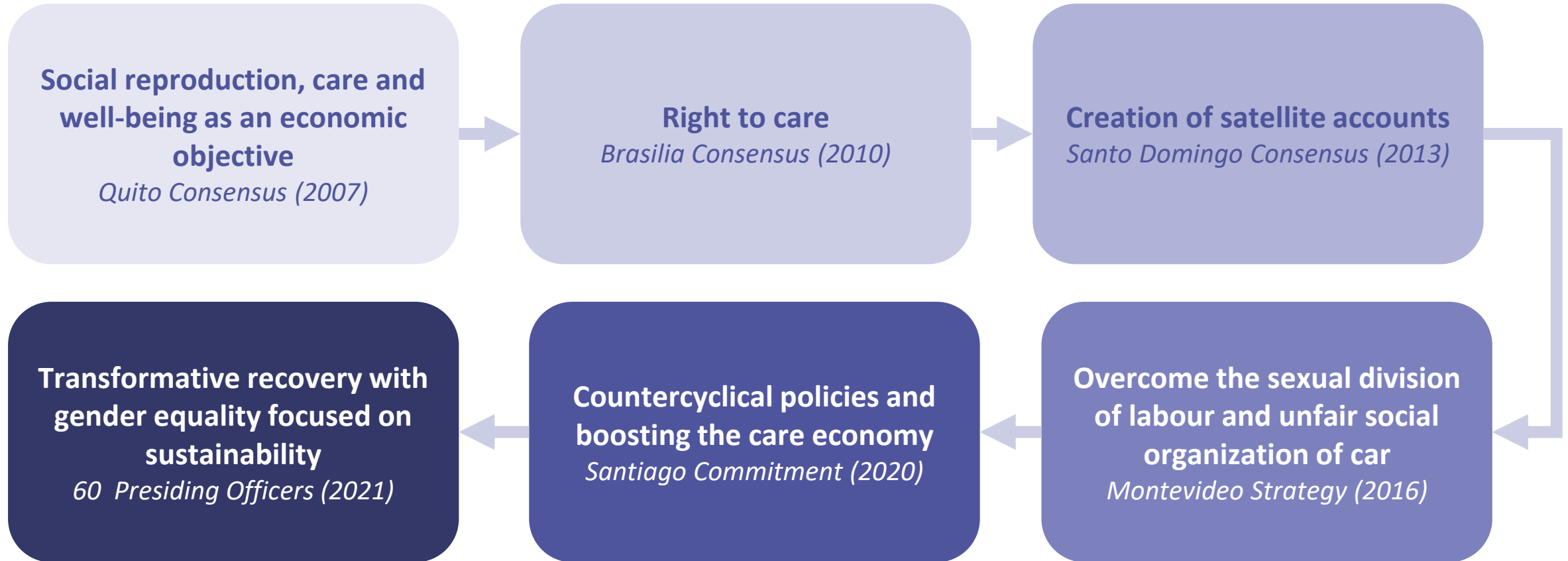
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The central role of care in the Regional Gender Agenda

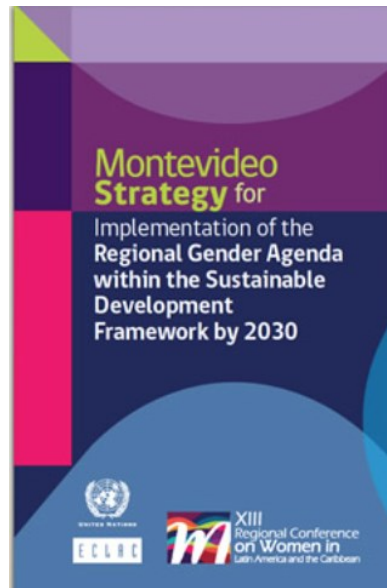


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The central role of care in the Regional Gender Agenda



Pillars of implementation of the Montevideo Strategy as a road map for building the care society



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (LC/CRM.13/5), Santiago, March 2017.

Care has a central role in the Santiago Commitment



“Implement gender-sensitive countercyclical policies, in order to mitigate the impact of economic crises and recessions on women’s lives and promote regulatory frameworks and policies to galvanize the economy in key sectors, including the care economy” (paragraph 24).

“Measure the multiplier effects of boosting the care economy in terms of women’s labour market participation [...], well-being, redistribution, economic growth and the macroeconomic impact of the care economy” (paragraph 25).

“Design comprehensive care systems from a gender, intersectional, intercultural and human rights perspective that foster co-responsibility between men and women, the State, the market, families and the community, and include joined-up policies on time, resources, benefits and universal, good-quality public services to meet the different care needs of the population, as part of social protection systems” (paragraph 26).

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), prepared on the basis of the Santiago Commitment adopted at the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)

Care has a central role in the Santiago Commitment

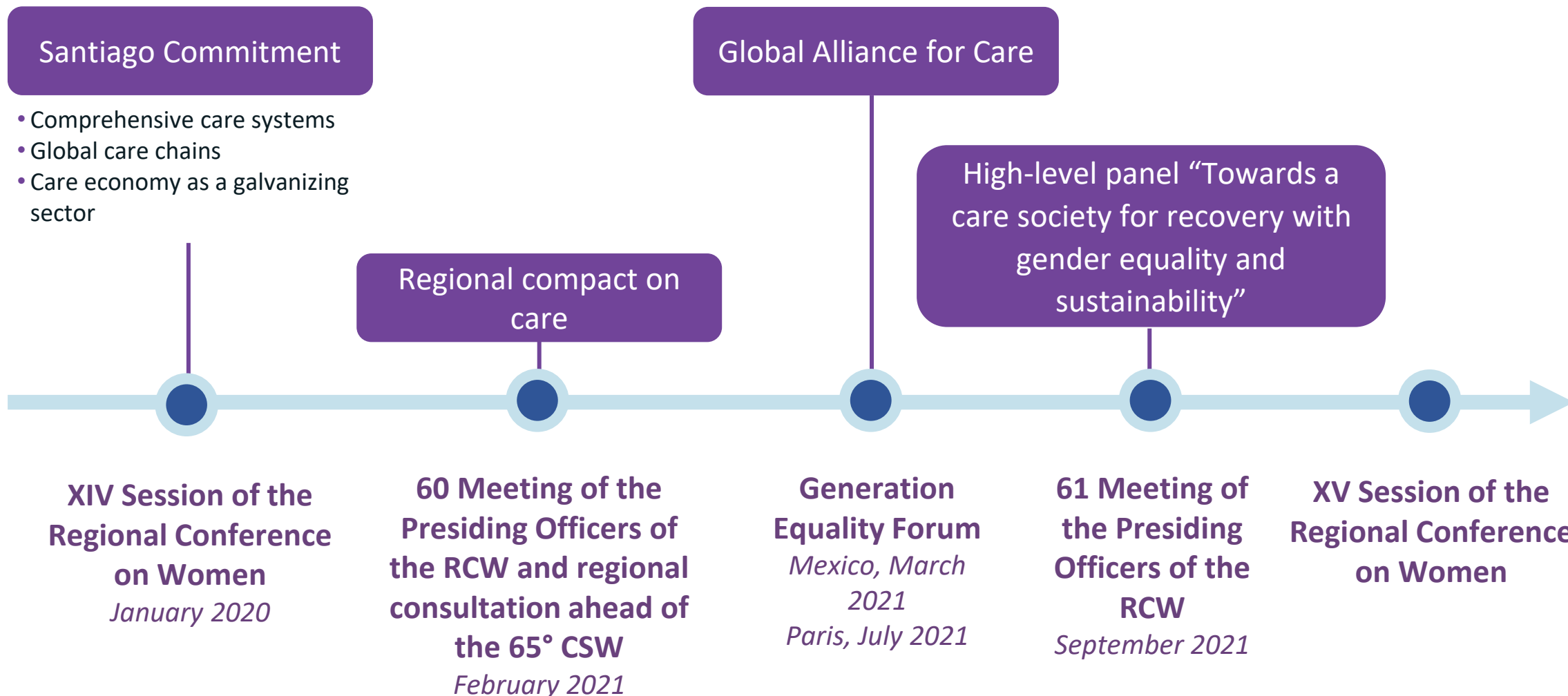


“Promote measures, policies and programmes for the full engagement of boys, young men and men as strategic allies in achieving gender equality and in promoting and ensuring women’s rights and their economic empowerment and autonomy [...], and foster policies for the equal sharing of domestic and care work between men and women” (paragraph 27).

“Also promote a systemic change in the approach to migration to reduce the vulnerabilities of women in the migration cycle, and the adoption of cooperation agreements among countries of origin, transit, destination and return for migrant women, refugees and asylum-seekers, paying particular attention to displacement phenomena surrounding global care chains and their structural causes, and ensure human rights and decent working conditions, [...] and non-discriminatory access to health services and comprehensive social protection” (paragraph 28).

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), prepared on the basis of the Santiago Commitment adopted at the XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020)

Towards the building of a care society within the framework of the Regional Gender Agenda 2020–2022



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The care society: a horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality

- The crisis should be an opportunity to **move towards a care society** that prioritizes the care of the planet, health, people and self-care. It implies moving towards a fair social organization of care and co-responsibility between the State, the market, the various forms of families and between men and women.
- It is a call for a **paradigm shift**, which implies rethinking patterns of production, consumption, distribution, reorienting finance towards the real economy, putting the sustainability of life at the centre.
- **The Regional Gender Agenda is a robust and advanced framework of agreements:** it calls for overcoming the sexual division of labor and the unjust social organization of care, implementing comprehensive care policies and systems, promoting the redistribution and recognition of care work, and strengthening the role of the care economy as a galvanizing sector towards a transformative recovery with equality.
- **It is necessary to strengthen the role of States from a feminist perspective**, through universal, intersectoral, comprehensive, co-responsible and sustainable care policies and systems.
- We have the opportunity to build consensus towards the next Regional Conference on Women in order **to achieve an equitable distribution of power, resources and time between women and men and to move towards a new style of development based on equality and sustainability.**



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