

A satellite map of the Americas, showing North and South America in green and brown, surrounded by the blue oceans of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Inter-American Development Bank

Berkeley Model
United Nations



LXIII
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

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¡Hola Delegados!

¡Bienvenidos al Banco Internacional de Desarrollo! My name is Emily Truax, and I will be your Head Chair for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Committee. I cannot wait for Berkeley Model UN's 63rd conference!!! The IDB was created in 1959, and is currently the largest source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB is owned by 48 sovereign states, which are its shareholders and members, and only the 26 borrowing countries are able to receive loans. This will make for an interesting dynamic in the committee, as some of you will be representing countries borrowing funds from the IDB, and others are funding the Bank. This committee is one of the most unique and challenging committees of BMUN, as, well, half of it is in Spanish! The first topic, Climate Change in Latin America, will be discussed in English, and the latter topic, Gender Equality (or Igualdad del genero), will be discussed in Spanish. You all are in for quite the treat to take your bilingual abilities to the next step by arguing and debating crucial topics that the IDB and the public, non-profit, and private sectors of countries involved in the Bank engage with on a daily basis. We would also like to emphasize that all levels of Spanish proficiency are welcome! IDB is a learning opportunity for all, and as you will see, your Chairs are all at different Spanish levels and abilities as well. This committee is going to be challenging, fantastic, and a great learning experience, y no puedo esperar para conocer a Uds. y las investigaciones que han hecho de sus países!

Sincerely,

Emily Truax

Head Chair of the Inter-American Development Bank Committee

Berkeley Model United Nations, 63rd Session

In order to get to know your Dias, each of us will briefly introduce ourselves:

Hey everyone! My name is Emily Truax, and I am a 4th year Political Science major and Global Poverty and Practice minor. I was born in Pleasanton, California, and am a Bay Area girl born and raised! This is my 3rd year in BMUN, and I was a Vice Chair of the Spanish-bilingual committee (OAS) last year as well! I will have just returned in the spring from studying international relations and economics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the University of Belgrano. I also participated in the Modelo de la Organización de Naciones Unidas de Belgrano



(MONUB) conference, and was in Human Rights Council, the only Spanish-English committee. Last summer, I went to San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico for 6 weeks, and did field research with an organization called Fundación Cántaro Azul, founded by graduate students at UC Berkeley. I worked with individuals that run committees to organize clean water services for their local communities, and explored ways for these committees to work most effectively. Otros hechos interesantes: trabajé en un estudio de derecho como una pasantía la semana pasada que se llama Squire Patton Boggs en Washington D.C., estoy muy involucrada en el gobierno estudiantil de UC Berkeley, trabajé con gente sin hogar en el área bahía como proveerlos con servicios legales, y me encanta ir trekking y nadar. Si tenés alguna duda, consulta o comentario, por favor escribame a etruax@bmun.org!

My name is Brett Buckingham, and I am a fourth year studying Human and Economic Geography, and I am one of your Vice-Chairs for IDB. This is my third year as part of the BMUN secretariat, and my second year as a vice chair of the Spanish-bilingual committee. I will be returning to Berkeley next spring after one year in South America. This past spring, I interned with the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, where I worked on projects ranging from immigration-related issues to public affairs programming and political economic research. I stayed in La Paz through the summer to serve as an intern with the United Nations Development Programme, conducting research on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management strategies currently being deployed at the municipal level throughout Bolivia. This fall, I am studying abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where I am learning Portuguese and continuing to build a curriculum focused on the relationship between development and the environment. My year abroad has deepened my understanding of the range of challenges facing Latin America, and peaked my interest in the role of international institutions in confronting them. In addition to my involvement in BMUN, I have served as President of Delta Phi Epsilon, Cal's only professional fraternity dedicated to careers in international affairs. Feel free to write me at any time prior to conference with your questions or concerns: babuckingham@berkeley.edu. Nos vemos! Até logo!

Hello Delegates! My name is Hunter Conrad and I am a 3rd year studying Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Linguistics and Environmental Policy and



Management. I am originally from Boulder, Colorado, but since high school have been based out of Venice Beach, CA. This is my 3rd year in BMUN, my past committees include WHO and DISC, which I loved, but I am looking forward to a smaller, more focused committee in BMUN LXIII! My sophomore year of high school I lived in Santa Fe, Argentina, which I now consider my second home. I also worked as a tour guide and translator in Juluchuca, Mexico the summer after my senior year. Beyond that I have travelled to Costa Rica, to surf in Pavones (the longest-left breaking wave, for all the surfers out there!), as well as Peru, Panama, and Bolivia. I am very sad that I will not be in Berkeley for BMUN, as I will be studying in Santiago, Chile, but please feel free to contact me, and ask me any questions about travelling or our committee at hconrad@bmun.org!

My name is Adrián Hernández-Morales, I am a first year trying to major in History and Spanish Literature, and I am also a Vice-Chair for IDB. Unfortunately, my high school did not have a MUN club, so this is my first time doing it, yet, I did do other similar things in high school like Mock trial and this other club called Raising Miracles. It is necessary to point out that even though I was pretty involved in my high school government, I spent most of my time in sports; I did wrestling for three years and ended up being a CIF champ my senior year. This is my first year at Berkeley, so I haven't had any chances of participating in other extracurricular activities or traveling abroad... but BMUN is pretty cool! In terms of my life, I was born in Chula Vista (10 minutes away from the Mexican border) but I lived my whole life in Tijuana. In fact, even when I moved here in high school when I was 15 years old, I was still living in Mexico every weekend and vacation period, so I can say that during high school I was very well exposed to both cultures. I believe that even though I don't have prior experience with this organization, I can be a source for our committee since I can consider myself to have known very well the American and a fraction of the Latin American way of life. Feel free to contact me at ahernandez@bmun.org if you have questions.



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Climate Change in Latin America

Topic Background

The world's climate is increasingly changing, and our world is turning into an oven. The main causes of global warming are greenhouse gases, such as coal and other fossil fuels, emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is vastly increasing, as the concentration of carbon dioxide in 2005 exceeded the natural range over the last 650,000 years (Solomon, 2007). This increase in carbon dioxide warms the atmosphere and deteriorates the ozone layer. The warming of the climate system is unprecedented, as 11 of the past 12 years are the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (Solomon, 2007). This rising temperature is evident from the melting of snow and glaciers, which has caused a rising sea level rising at an average of 3.1 mm per year from 1993 – 2003 (Solomon, 2007). Impoverished and indigenous individuals and communities' livelihoods in Latin America and the Caribbean have been greatly affected by the warming of the Earth. However, paradoxically, this region has also been a large contributor to Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) as well.

Latin America has recently dealt with the problem of compromising environmental sustainability for increased economic growth. Over the past decades, increased incomes in Latin America have resulted in increased economic activity and GHG emissions in the region. Thus, Latin America has faced a difficult task of ensuring economic growth, while still trying to minimize the negative and social impacts of GHG emissions (Ríos, 2014). Latin America and the Caribbean holistically contribute 12% to the world's GHG emissions. However, looking at a per-capita (per-person) basis, Latin American countries contribute more to GHG emissions than other developing countries, including India and China. For this region, the estimate holistic cost of climate change has been a loss of a loss of 1.3-7% of their GDP, depending on the region (Verner, 2010). This is because greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere affect water quality, thus decreasing power usage and marine flora and fauna ecosystems. This deterioration of the environment increases poverty and income inequality. The increase in poverty can lead to increased migration, which heightens conflict amongst immigrants and natives of a region



(Verner, 2010). Environmental degradation and poverty are caused by human activities that emit an extensive amount of GHGs in Latin America, including agricultural activities, deforestation, and transportation and infrastructure.

World pressure on Latin America to produce food is only increasing over time; from 2009 to 2030, the demand for food in the world will increase by between 50-80%. As such, in the past 50 years, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GHG emissions from agricultural activity in Latin America have doubled in the past 50 years (FAO, 2014). For example, in Brazil, 54% of the country's total GHG emissions was caused by cattle (Vosti, 2011). The two largest emitters in agriculture are enteric fermentation at 60% of agriculture emissions, and manure on pasture at 25% of agriculture emissions; raising cows not only for food, but also as a means to fertilize fields, has proved detrimental.

Deforestation is also a leading cause of climate change within Latin America. In the region, timber extraction and logging activities account for 70% of total forest degradation in Latin America. Additionally, around 2/3 of Latin American deforestation is caused by commercial agriculture, and the demand for commercial agriculture will only rise with foreign pressure due to globalization (Kissinger, 2012). This increase in deforestation is exemplified by the rate of deforestation in Brazil rising 28% between 2011-2012, and in Central America, forest area has decreased by almost 40% in the past four decades (FAO, 2014).

Other large causes of an increase in GHG emissions in Latin America are transportation and infrastructure. Transportation ranges from fuel production and distribution, manufacturing, maintenance, and displacement of motor vehicles. Looking at Latin America and the Caribbean per capita, 35% of GHG emissions are evolved from individual transportation (Clean Air Institute, 2014). If transportation development continues to increase at the present trend, by 2030, Latin America will reach European transportation development in the 1960's (Clean Air Institute, 2014). GHG emissions from transportation have been increasing due to a lack of public support, and private modernization, for urban transport systems in Latin American cities. However, larger cities, such as Sao Paulo and Botoga, have reduced GHG emissions by decreasing the rate of motorization and motor vehicle use through increased public transportation strategies (Ríos, 2013).



The increased emission of GHGs in Latin America directly effects communities' agricultural productivity, the safety of many communities living near lakes and rivers, and worsens living conditions for poor and indigenous populations. Agricultural productivity in Latin America is greatly affected by climate change, as the availability of natural resources will vary depending on the weather and climate. Crop growth and livestock production depend the temperature, winds, and water availability, so large variability in these factors can greatly diminish agricultural productivity in Latin America (W. Leal, 2014). This threatens food availability in the region, thus also jeopardizing the livelihood of farmers and agricultural producers. Additionally, climate change due GHG emissions causes the flooding of communities along river basins and lakes. For example, flooding in the La Plata River Basin along the River of Paraguay and Pilcomayo has caused the displacement of a vulnerable population of 100,000 inhabitants in marshes along the river basin (W. Leal, 2014). Climate change will increase the intensity of floods, in addition to creating droughts that cause water borne illnesses and diarrheal diseases (W. Leal, 2014). Thus, populations already vulnerable to these risks will be further imperiled.

However, communities along rivers and lakes are not the only ones greatly threatened by global warming in Latin America; the livelihood of 38.8 million indigenous individuals in the region is greatly jeopardized. Indigenous communities depend on cultural, human, and social assets, including traditional knowledge systems and institutions, which are all deeply linked to stable environmental conditions. Thus, variability in the climate results in the inability to predict precipitation patterns and other factors that greatly affect their norms of living (Kronik, 2010). Additionally, other aspects of GHG emissions that greatly affect indigenous populations in Latin America include warmer air temperatures, which can increase mortality rate and disease vectors like malarial mosquitoes. Rising sea surface temperatures offsets the migration of fish stocks, coral reefs, and mangroves, which negatively impacts these individuals' dependency on the listed resources in order to feed themselves and their community (Kronik, 2010).

In order to lessen GHG emissions, assist countries and communities with adaptation to climate change, and prevent the drastic increase in the Earth's surface temperature, the United Nations (UN) has implemented projects and policy reform



Past UN Action

Previous UN action relating to climate change dates back many decades. In 1979, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened the First World Climate Conference to “assess the state of knowledge of climate and to consider the effects of climate variability and change on human society” (WMO, 2014). This conference initiated multiple conferences focusing on addressing climate change in the 1970’s, and also resulted in the establishment of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its research component, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Two World Climate Conferences were held thereafter, both in Geneva in 1990 and 2009 (WMO, 2014).

In 1988, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established to look at the science of climate change after a period of severe weather disasters. In its 5th assessment report, the IPCC recently discovered that from 1880 to 2012, the average global temperature increased by .85 degrees Celsius, and oceans have warmed and glaciers have melted. The report also included that at the end of the century, the increase in global temperature will have exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius. Thus, this panel gives substantive and concrete facts to policy decisions by the United Nations relating to climate change (Cubasch, 2013).

The most important and influential step the UN has taken to combat climate change is establishing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on March 21, 1994. This convention consists of an annual meeting of 195 parties (countries) to discuss ways countries can help their citizens adapt to climate change, and also prevent further global warming. The ultimate objective of the convention is to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” (UNFCCC, 2014). The conference holds beliefs that developed countries are expected to decrease the most GHG emissions, and to additionally finance projects in developing countries increasing environmental sustainability. However, the UNFCCC must also make sure that the economic



progress of developing countries is not hindered due to increased environmental sustainability. Although this conference has proved to be a consistent space for countries to convene and create a plan to combat climate change, there have also been problems. Even though the UNFCCC has begun to engage indigenous communities in 2000, the influence of indigenous communities in the decision-making process remains minimal, despite the fact that these communities are the most vulnerable to climate change (RTCC, 2014).

Another influential step in combating climate change that the UN has taken is adopting the Kyoto Protocol in Kyoto, Japan on December 11, 1997, and its enactment in 2005. The Kyoto Protocol sets binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries; for example, the first commitment period is to ensure 5% emission reduction from 2008-2012 (UNFCC Kyoto Protocol, 2014). The Kyoto Protocol functions through reporting and verification procedures, flexible market-based mechanisms, and encourages global partnerships to combat poverty by simultaneously decreasing GHG emissions (UNFCC Kyoto Protocol, 2014). However, the United States has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, thus making it difficult to make any impactful decisions when one of the largest GHG emitters is not present in the discussions.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has also played a significant role in the UN's response to climate change. The UNDP has established the Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development as one of its four main areas to combat poverty, and focuses on the three following areas to address climate change: connecting countries to resources to help people build a better life, assisting countries in building resilient societies, and strengthening the capacity of countries to access, manage, and account for climate finance (UNDP, 2014). Additionally, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, initiated by the UNDP, include Goal #7 which is to ensure environmental sustainability by reversing the loss of environmental resources, reducing biodiversity reduction, promoting sustainable access to safe drinking water, and improving slum dwellers conditions (United Nations, 2013). The UNDP has taken strategic measures to address climate change from the perspective of poverty reduction.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has identified climate change as a key issue to focus efforts as well. The IDB has implemented the IDB Climate Change Action Plan of



2012, to ensure that by 2015, 25% of the total Bank lending will support operations in climate change, environmental sustainability, and sustainable energy. The IDB focuses on the following sectors to address climate change: land use and forestry, agriculture and livestock, energy efficiency, sustainable urban transport, water resource management and sanitation, and renewable energy (IDB, 2012). Additionally, the IDB has established the ID Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Action Plan (REST-AP), in order to mitigate GHG emissions from the transportation sector in Latin America. Efforts in this Plan have included to train IDB staff and clients in sustainable urban passenger and freight transport and enhance knowledge base on climate change mitigation (IDB, 2014). However, more steps can be taken to combat climate change by greater allocation of money to nations in Latin America, and through greater incentives to ensure governments are taking the right steps towards ensuring greener societies.

Case Study

Urban Sustainable Mobility Plan of the City of Rio de Janeiro

Recently, Brazil has taken steps to reduce its carbon footprint by investing in sustainable public transportation projects. In 2012, President Rousseff allocated over USD \$20 billion for the creation of National Policy on Urban Mobility to guide the development of sustainable urban mobility plans at the municipal level. These funds, along with an additional USD \$8 billion from the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC), a long-term infrastructure program inaugurated in 2007, represent an unprecedented amount of investment in public transportation in Brazilian history (EMBARQ, 2014). The PAC legislation mandates all cities with populations exceeding 200,000 residents (affecting over 3,000 cities in total) to develop urban mobility plans by April 2015 in order to receive government funding. It also sets forth specific infrastructure solutions, such as creating affordable public transportation, bus lanes, bike routes, and congestion pricing policies (Petzhold, 2014).

The IDB has decided to support the development of sustainable transportation in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The project, entitled *Support Urban Sustainable Mobility Plan (USMP) of the city of Rio de Janeiro*, has come just as the city anticipates an unprecedented amount of pressure



on its infrastructure and public transportation systems. Selected as the host for both the 2014 FIFA World Cup Tournament and the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, Rio de Janeiro will be welcoming a historic number of travelers over the course of the next couple of years. Of the total PAC funding, approximately US\$660 million was allocated to Rio de Janeiro. Although the city has hosted other large international sporting tournaments recently, such as the 2007 Pan American Games, the investments made in preparation for these events failed to prioritize public transportation (IDB, Brasil, 2014).

The IDB's project aims to support the formulation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan in alignment with the IDB's Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (REST) strategy, which falls under its Initiative for Sustainable Energy and Climate Change (SECCI). Its objectives are fourfold: (i) to propose policies, regulatory measures and incentives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the socioeconomic and urban development priorities and environmental management strategies of the cities; (ii) to estimate the possible amount of greenhouse gas reduction of various policy options and identify potential funding from the sale of carbon credits or other financial mechanisms related to climate change; (iii) to review the proposed transportation projects for the 2014 World Cup; and (iv) to propose measures for institutional strengthening, sector regulation, and training to establish sustainable urban mobility management and greenhouse gas emission monitoring.

Many improvements are already underway in Rio de Janeiro. For example, the new bus rapid transit (BRT) systems are expanding the city's capacity to transport residents and tourists. During the World Cup, these buses moved millions of visitors effectively around the city, cutting transit times significantly (Petzhold, 2014). Two BRT corridors are already functioning, and another two are expected to be ready by the 2016 Olympic Games. They are expected to serve approximately 1.6 million passengers on the 160 km of BRT routes city every day. The recently opened *TransCarioca Corridor*, which runs to and from the international airport, moves around 450,000 persons daily on its own. These developments are giving many neighborhoods access to fast and affordable transport. While improving the quality of life for Brazilians, these changes are also effective in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward a cleaner, more



sustainable urban future. Some speculate that such progress could inspire further sustainable transport initiatives throughout the country (Petzhold, 2014).

While Brazil's effort to improve its public transportation systems are particularly important because of the World Cup and Olympic Games, it stands as a useful example for understanding how some countries are targeting inefficiency and investing public funds in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Moving forward, this also demonstrates one way in which the IDB can support climate change mitigation strategies throughout Latin America.

Questions to consider

1. (Lender) How should the bank best give out loans and which sectors of environmental sustainability should IDB focus on to decrease climate change the most?
2. (Borrower) What strategy can your country use to decrease climate change while continuing economic stimulation and growth?
3. (Both) What sectors should IDB be focusing efforts to most drastically decrease greenhouse gases per capita in Latin America?



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Derechos humanos para las mujeres en Latinoamérica

Fondo del Tópico

La inequidad y la violencia de género son fenómenos que las mujeres enfrentan alrededor del mundo; estos problemas existen a través de fronteras regionales, sociales, culturales, y económicas. La violencia doméstica y los derechos reproductivos son luchas importantes y significativas que las mujeres afrontan hoy en día.

La violencia doméstica es causa de daño físico y psiquiátrico hacia las mujeres. Generalmente, estas violaciones a los derechos humanos de las mujeres son perpetradas por alguien que la mujer conoce, como su esposo. La violencia contra las mujeres es más común en países menos desarrollados con bajos ingresos y recursos (Klasing, 2012). La violencia doméstica afecta la salud de las mujeres en términos de salud mental y enfermedades mentales. Sin embargo, no existe una definición única y consistente de salud mental y enfermedades mentales en América Latina. Por ejemplo, Colombia es un país con leyes progresistas; en 2008, el gobierno de Colombia implementó una ley para prevenir y sancionar la violencia contra las mujeres, y para ordenar a las instituciones gubernamentales proveer servicios para las víctimas de la violencia doméstica. Pero, al mismo tiempo, hay muchas mujeres y chicas víctimas de violencia doméstica quienes son desplazadas y quienes no conocen sus derechos a la salud y la justicia. También, es difícil encontrar evidencia de un asalto sexual, pagar a los abogados durante el proceso legal, y tener citas con doctores después de un asalto sexual (Klasing, 2012).

Aunque la violencia doméstica causa enfermedades psicológicas y viola los derechos humanos, los derechos de la mujer son actualmente amenazados en muchos países latinoamericanos. Por ejemplo, en Marzo 2013, el Corte más alta de la justicia en Brasil exoneró a un hombre que cometió abuso sexual a tres chicas de doce años. La razón del juez para exonerar al hombre fue que las chicas eran trabajadoras sexuales (Amnesty International, 2013). Además, en Mayo de 2012 en Colombia, una mujer indígena fue abusada sexualmente por un soldado colombiano. En Marzo, hombres entraron a una comunidad en Tumaco y abusaron sexualmente de otras tres mujeres. Por eso, los políticos colombianos legislaron una ley para garantizar justicia para las víctimas del abuso sexual (Amnesty International, 2013).



La violencia contra la mujer no sólo destruye el bienestar de las mujeres, pero también inhibe el desarrollo de un país y la habilidad de un país para pelear en contra de la pobreza. La violencia hacia la mujer en América Latina ocasiona también gastos para los gobiernos. Cuando más mujeres son violadas, hay un gasto público y un costo adicional para asegurar los servicios de la salud pública (Almerás, 2002). Por eso, debe ser prioritario que los gobiernos protejan a las mujeres de la violencia doméstica y otras formas de abuso y discriminación.

Otros problemas que las mujeres encuentran son el recibir servicios de salud después de abusos sexuales, tales como servicios reproductivos de contracepción y aborto después de una violación sexual. Por ejemplo, la reproducción en Argentina es una gran problema; más de 40% de las gestaciones terminan en abortos (Jaspers_Faijer, 2010). Si el gobierno regulara y diera anticonceptivos y medicinas para prevenir la reproducción, habría menos mujeres embarazadas. En América Latina y el Caribe, la gran mayoría de las madres o mujeres embarazadas no tienen educación; en Trinidad y Tobago, casi 100% de las madres no tienen educación alguna, y en Nicaragua, 65% de las mujeres embarazadas no tienen educación tampoco (Jaspers_Faijer, 2010). Es importante que los gobiernos tomen medidas para asegurar que las mujeres estén usando anticonceptivos, y también, que aumenten la educación dirigida a las madres y mujeres embarazadas.

Además, las mujeres incapacitadas tienen problemas peores con al obtener anticonceptivos para mantener su salud reproductiva, especialmente en Argentina. Recientemente hubo un discurso sobre los derechos humanos de las mujeres discapacitadas en una Convención de los Derechos de Personas Discapacitadas (Møllmann, 2010). También, las mujeres en Perú tienen dificultades con el acceso a abortos terapéuticos cuando un embarazo es una amenaza a la salud y la vida de la mujer. Las mujeres en Perú carecen de información sobre su derecho a tener un aborto, y los profesionales de la salud pública comunican de manera compleja las leyes a las sobre la salud reproductiva de la mujer (Heimbürger, 2008).

Finalmente, algunos países tienen leyes estrictas en torno al aborto y los derechos reproductivos para las mujeres. En Chile, el aborto es un crimen, y algunas organizaciones de los derechos de las mujeres están tratando de persuadir a los representantes del gobierno chileno para que permitan el aborto en caso de abuso sexual o cuando hay una amenaza a la salud de la



mujer (Amnesty International, 2013). Las mujeres han sido quebrantadas ante la existencia de políticas injustas de los gobiernos latinoamericanos, además de un sistema legal que no incluye sus derechos.

Acciones pasadas de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas

La Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) es la organización más importante tratando de fortalecer las bases para los derechos humanos de las mujeres. En su primer año, la ONU declaró que protegería los derechos de las mujeres con la creación del Comité Económico y Social para las Mujeres. En el año 1975, durante el movimiento feminista, la ONU creó el Año de las Mujeres Internacionales, y organizó la primera Conferencia Mundial de las Mujeres en la Ciudad de México (UN “Global Issues”, 2014).

En 1979, la Asamblea General de la ONU adoptó la Convención sobre la Eliminación de las Formas de Discriminación en Contra las Mujeres. Hay una agenda establecida para acabar con la discriminación en contra de las mujeres a nivel nacional, y explica que la cultura y traición son los factores más influyentes para formar los roles de género y la cultura entre las familias (UN “Global Issues”, 2014).

En 1993, la ONU escribió una Declaración sobre la Eliminación de la Violencia contra la Mujer. La declaración fue escrita para definir la violencia contra la mujer e incluye los tipos de violencia física, sexual, y psicológica, así como la violencia contra mujeres, niñas, y mujeres mayores. También, la declaración fue escrita para que la gente entienda las excesivas violaciones de los derechos de las mujeres del mundo, además, también fue creada para pelear en contra de la subordinación de las mujeres en diferentes sociedades (Alméras, 2002).

Más enfocada en los derechos de las mujeres en América Latina, en 1994, la ONU juntó la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Castigar, y Erradicar la Violencia Contra la Mujer. La convención estableció los deberes del estado para implementar políticas que prevengan, sancionen y erradiquen dicha violencia. También, para ayudar a las mujeres a entender sus derechos y las leyes, los estados adquirieron requisitos para implementar programas de educación legal y talleres para ayudar las mujeres que han sido agredidas sexualmente. Además, los estados tuvieron que garantizar la investigación y recopilación de estadísticas y demás



información pertinente sobre las causas, consecuencias y frecuencia de la violencia contra la mujer (Fondo, 2013). La Declaración y la Conferencia han sido fundamentales para establecer derechos humanos universales para las mujeres y avanzar hacia la creación de nuevas conferencias mundiales de la ONU (Almerás, 2002).

Además, en 1994, hubo una Conferencia Regional sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Económico y Social de América Latina y el Caribe en Mar del Plata, Argentina para discutir estos problemas y planear una agenda para la cuarta Conferencia Mundial de las Mujeres. En esta conferencia, se discutieron las diferencias entre la realidad de la situación de la violencia e inequidad social de las mujeres, y como asegurar la equidad para las mujeres. Esta equidad puede reducir la pobreza y minimizar la distribución del ingreso en los países latinoamericanos. También, los estados enfatizaron la integración cultural y económica que puede ayudar la equidad social de las mujeres (Unidad Mujer, 1994).

En 1996, la Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo de La Secretaría Ejecutiva de la ONU creó la Comisión de la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer, una organización internacional dedicada a la promoción de la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer. La Comisión estableció un estatus igualitario para la mujer, y dio recomendaciones a otras comisiones para promocionar los derechos políticos, económicos, sociales, y educativos de las mujeres. En 2009, para los años 2009-2015, la ONU se propuso alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo, además de establecer como prioridad el promover la educación científica y tecnológica para las mujeres y la igualdad de género en la obra del mano (Economic Social Council, 2009).

En 2010, la ONU centralizó la agenda mundial de la mujer en cuatro agencias y oficinas para asegurar mejor comunicación y una visión más enfocada. Estas oficinas son: los Fondos para el Desarrollo de las Mujeres, la Oficina del Mentor Especial de los Problemas de Género, la División para el Avance de las Mujeres, y el Instituto de Investigaciones y Entrenamiento Internacional para el Avance de las Mujeres (United Nations, “Global Issues,” 2014). Aunque hay muchas luchas que la ONU desea implementar para ayudar a la mujer, es importante que los líderes de estos proyectos estén comunicados y entiendan lo que las otras oficinas están haciendo.



El Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) también tiene un sector dedicado a asegurar igualdad en el trato hacia las mujeres, y ha implementado el Plan de Acción de Género (2011-2013). El objetivo de esta política es fortalecer las acciones del Banco para cumplir con las metas y compromisos de los miembros de los países latinoamericanos y caribeños para promover la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres. Para fortalecer sus acciones, el BID espera que sus miembros contribuyan y creen acuerdos internacionales en este tópico. También, las acciones en el cumplimiento de estas políticas ayudarán a las instituciones del Banco y a su misión de acelerar el desarrollo económico y social en sus miembros regionales (BID, 2010).

Aunque el BID y la ONU han tomado muchas acciones para prevenir la violencia de la mujer, todavía hay muchas políticas en muchos países en América Latina que no son justos a las mujeres, y la mayoría de actos violentos sexuales de las mujeres no son declarados. Por eso, necesitamos reformar las políticas y sistemas justicias país por país.

Caso Práctico

La Ciudad Mujer en El Salvador y México

En El Salvador, aunque la constitución prohíbe la discriminación basada en la raza, el género, la incapacidad, el lenguaje, la orientación sexual, la identidad género, y el estatus social, estas prohibiciones no han sido ejecutadas por el gobierno. Hay menos acusaciones de violaciones sexuales por las mujeres porque hay presiones sociales que las mujeres afrontan. También, en Agosto 2013, hubo 4,826 casos de crímenes sexuales, pero sólo 392 fueron convictos. La violencia doméstica hacia las mujeres es aceptable socialmente, y esto es una gran causa por la cual existen muchas víctimas de la violencia (U.S. State Department, 2013).

En trabajos que involucran mano de obra, también hay drásticamente menos declaraciones de acoso sexual de las mujeres. A partir de Agosto, sólo han sido declarados 552 casos de acoso sexual contra la mujer, y 33 de éstos fueron convictos. En El Salvador, es ilegal llevar a cabo un acto de acoso sexual, pero los hombres lo hacen debido a costumbres sociales y las mujeres raramente buscan ayuda legal (U.S. State Department, 2013). Además en la mano de obra, las mujeres ganan un salario medio 57% menos en comparación al salario medio de los



hombres. Al mismo tiempo, la constitución del El Salvador garantiza que las mujeres y los hombres reciban igual trato en la mano de obra, así como en instituciones privadas y públicas (U.S. State Department, 2013).

Para mitigar las violaciones y los maltratos hacia las mujeres en El Salvador, el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) junto con la Secretaria de la Inclusión Social del gobierno de El Salvador, Vanda Guiomar Pignato, institucionalizaron un programa que se llama, “La Ciudad Mujer.” La Ciudad Mujer consiste de cuatro centros en diferentes ciudades en El Salvador: La Libertad, Santa Ana, Usulután y San Salvador. En estos centros, hay servicios integrados para las mujeres. Por ejemplo, hay servicios para asegurar autonomía, tales como servicios del desarrollo de negocios y servicios médicos para ayudar a la salud sexual y reproductiva y a la educación colectiva sobre los derechos humanos de la mujer. Hay también una sala de atención para cuidar a menores y se proveen servicios psicólogos para tratar el trauma ocasionado después de la violencia doméstica (BID, 2013). Como resultado de estos esfuerzos, ha habido más de 127 millones de visitas de usuarias y más de 288 millones servicios independientes. Así mismo, ha mejorado la confianza en las instituciones públicas en El Salvador, gracias a la Ciudad Mujer (BID, 2013).

El BID quiere que la Ciudad Mujer sea un modelo adaptable a diferentes países. Según el BID, la Ciudad Mujer es adaptable porque los servicios que organiza pueden cambiar según las necesidades específicas de cada país y la capacidad de sus instituciones. Además, estos centros pueden establecerse en diferentes partes del país y pueden generar la integración de diversas iniciativas públicas y privadas en países Latinoamericanos (BID, 2013). Un ejemplo de un país que está tratando de implementar su Ciudad Mujer es México.

En México, en las poblaciones más pobres, el maltrato físico hacia las esposas es muy común, aunque no es moral en la cultura de México que un esposo golpee y maltrate a su esposa. Aunque México tiene una sociedad machista, no es común que un esposo golpee a sus hermanas o a su madre; hay una relación específica en torno a la violencia ejercida por el hombre hacia su pareja. Esta cultura es un resultado de la industrialización en México, cuando los hombres necesitan ir a la ciudad y a las fábricas para trabajar, las mujeres se quedan en casa con los niños. Diversos roles de género se han formado debido a este fenómeno. Por eso, cuando las esposas



llegan a ser dependientes económicos de los esposos, las diferencias entre los géneros se vuelven más pronunciadas. También, es difícil que una mujer deje a su esposo, ya que no tiene ningún trabajo ni manera de vivir y proveer para si misma (Finkler, 1997). En México, casi la mitad de las mujeres (46.1%) sufren de violencia en su relación de pareja (Arestegui Noticias, 2014). Además, en México había sido muchas abducciones y asesinatos de las mujeres (Amnesty International, 2013).

Con el modelo de la Ciudad Mujer en El Salvador, el BID ha aprobado fondos para crear un centro de una Ciudad Mujer en Tlapa, México. Este proyecto proporciona recursos financieros para apoyar el diseño y la implementación de un Centro de la Ciudad Mujer en Tlapa de Comonfort, Guerrero, México (IDB, 2013).

Preguntas para consideración

1. (Prestatarios) Evalúa la progresión hacia a la diversidad e igualdad de género de su país y la implementación del Plan de la acción de género. ¿Cómo puede avanzar su país para incluir a las mujeres, y cuales políticas puede implementar para mejorar la igualdad de las mujeres?
2. (Prestamistas) ¿Cómo puede evaluar el uso de sus recursos para ayudar a los prestatarios a mejorar la igualdad de las mujeres, y en qué programas pueden invertir para disminuir la brecha de género?
3. (Ambos) ¿Qué piensan son las causas principales de la violencia doméstica en América Latina?





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