“Leaving No Girl Behind: Child Marriages and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean”
Co-sponsored by UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF
With the participation of UNAIDS

17 March from 8:15-9:30am
UN Headquarters, Conference Room 8

Opening remarks by Her Excellency Ms. Laura E. Flores H., Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

PANELISTS
Ms. Ana Elena Badilla
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Dr. Cesar Nuñez
Director of UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Latin America
Ms. Liriola Leoteau
Director of the National Women’s Institute, Panama
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Regional Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Programme Specialist, Plan
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Contrary to global trends, the prevalence of child marriage and early unions in LAC has persisted over the past three decades. This has kept it off from global and regional agendas, leaving child marriage and early unions¹ as a remaining obstacle in the path to gender equality for girls. Yet, the region has the potential to achieve significant results in a short period of time. The event is designed to present lessons learned from good practices in the region and programmatic/policy options from ongoing efforts at addressing the drivers of child marriage and early unions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ For the purpose of this event, and on the basis of a previous inter-agency agreement within the UNDG LAC, the use of the terminology of child marriage and early unions will be retained, which is consistent with international and UN agreements and commitments. Child marriage and early unions can be defined as the state of being united to a person in a contractual relationship be it recognized by law, such as formal marriage or registered unions, or comparable informal unions. International standards set the minimum age of marriage at 18. Child marriage and early union is the union against these international standards, in which one of the members is aged below 18.