



GOBIERNO DE CHILE
MINISTERIO SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE GOBIERNO
SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIÓN Y CULTURA

CHILE

REPORTS

International Press Department • Communication and Culture Secretariat • March 8, 2005 • No. 17

Women in democracy



The condition of women in Chile has changed significantly within the past 15 years. They are better-educated, more conscious of their rights, and determined to take advantage of opportunities that were previously closed to them. The three governments of the Concertación de Partidos por la Democracia have placed the achievement of full equality of opportunity for women and men among their highest priorities.

“Today, when girls dream of the future, they imagine themselves as technicians, professionals and entrepreneurs; as workers, soldiers, police officers, directors, artists, and academics. This happens at all levels of society. And it doesn’t seem strange to us or induce conflict or rejection.”

President Ricardo Lagos
March 8, 2004

“Individuals are born free and equal in their rights and dignity.”

**Article 1
of Chile’s Constitution**

One year ago, on March 8, 2004, at the celebration of International Women’s Day, President Ricardo Lagos noted: “Today, women in our country have demonstrated that their capacity for work and leadership are unlimited, and thus their aspirations should also be unlimited.”

In fact, if recent surveys are not mistaken, the next President of Chile will be a woman: Michelle Bachelet or Soledad Alvear, the two pre-candidates of the Concertación coalition.

Since 1990, the three democratic administrations have made continuing efforts to remove the limits that previously affected women. Concrete measures have been taken to grant women a prominent place within the government’s agenda, permitting significant advances in their condition and quality of life. The country has clearly changed. Today, “Chile bears a woman’s face,” maintains Cecilia Pérez, Minister of the National Women’s Service (Sernam).

The country has undergone a profound transformation during these 15 years, as national statistics demonstrate. In the area of education, women surpass men in average years of schooling. Meanwhile, female participation in the labor force, although still insufficient, has risen to 38%, more than 10% greater than the 1990 figure.

The public arena has also seen an influx of women: there are female government ministers, undersecretaries, governors, and service directors, as well as business leaders and professionals. “Today’s woman is better-educated, more conscious of her rights, and determined to take advantage of opportunities which were previously closed to her, whether because of unjust legislation (which barred access to certain posts) or by society itself,” explains Minister Pérez.



CECILIA PEREZ
Minister of the National Women's Service

She received a degree in Social Work from the University of Concepción in 1988. Later, she undertook graduate study in Regional and Local Development at Michel de Montaigne University in Bordeaux, France.

During her 16 years of professional work, she has held various positions in the fields of social policy and public administration. From 1998 to 2001, she worked at the National Foundation for the Elimination of Poverty, where she first served as Head of Research and later as Executive Director. After that time, she took courses in Public Management and Development at the IADB's Inter-American Institute for Social Development (Indes), in Washington, D.C.

In January 2002, President Lagos appointed her as Minister of Planning and Cooperation (Mideplan), a position which she held until March 2003. Under her leadership, the Chile Solidarity social protection system, aimed at providing comprehensive services to families living in extreme poverty, was designed and implemented.

In March 2003, she took office as Minister of the National Women's Service. Achievements since that time have included the approval of the new Civil Marriage Law and the modification of the laws on Domestic Violence and Filiation. Minister Cecilia Pérez is 38 years old and single.

Studies conducted by Sernam confirm that during the past 15 years, the changes experienced by women around the world have been replicated in Chile. Women are living longer and having fewer children; their educational levels are rising; their labor market participation is expanding; and they are increasingly entering fields marked by masculine dominance in the past, such as scientific research, technology, politics, and sports.

Today's young women tend to postpone starting a family, choosing to pursue their own development first. Signs are also beginning to appear that young couples are taking on more flexible roles within their households. Meanwhile, scientific advances and cultural changes have modified the younger generations' views of sexuality and reproduction.

The path taken

During their first ten years, the democratic governments' efforts were focused on understanding the true dimensions of the situation faced by Chilean women.

Sernam, whose director holds ministerial rank, was created in 1991 on the initiative of President Patricio Aylwin (1990-1994). As its first director, Soledad Alvear, explained: "Women comprise more than half of the population, and although our Constitution grants them equality before the law, this is not truly reflected in numerous areas of legislation, and an examination of daily life reveals disturbing disadvantages, especially among the poorest groups. These are basic facts that underlie our service's reason for existence."

The National Women's Service arose with the aim of presenting a proposal to the country: "Let's work for new deal." The objective was a more egalitarian, just, free and integrated society, offering a higher quality of life for its women and their families, especially those with few resources.

Sernam's creation also reflected the international commitments taken on by Chile through its ratification – in December 1989 – of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as its signing of other agreements which recommended that high-level government bodies promote women's advancement. During its early years, Sernam dedicated itself to analyzing the most urgent issues to be addressed.

In 1994, the first Equal Opportunity Plan was presented, "the foundation and central axis of Sernam's activities," which would extend until 1999. The plan, which set forth the need to incorporate gender equity into all of the country's public policies, was accepted by the executive branch as part of the government's program in 1995.

The approval of landmark laws, such as those on Domestic Violence and Filiation, as well as the reform to the 1980 Constitution which made explicit the legal equality of men and women, have been the main objectives achieved to date.

However, not all of the advances of Chilean women can be translated into concrete numbers or specific achievements. Many of them involve intangible elements which reflect changes in the way people relate to each other; for instance, the rising consciousness of the levels of inequality present in society and the successful placement of women's issues on the public agenda.

In 2000, a second document came to fruition: the 2000-2010 Plan for Equal Opportunity among Women and Men. "This plan includes more integrating elements than the previous one, and it emphasizes women's participation in the spheres of work and politics," stresses Cecilia Pérez.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ According to Chile's 2002 census, women make up 50.73% of the population. This statistic has not varied substantially in recent decades: in 1950, 50.5% of the population was already female.
- ★ One out of every three Chilean households is headed by a woman.
- ★ Chilean women obtained the right to vote in 1949.

Sernam's official mission is to ensure that the actions of the State link and integrate the defense of women's rights with improvements in the quality of life for the population as a whole. It is responsible for designing, proposing and evaluating public policies aimed at achieving equality of opportunity among women and men in all aspects of life; improving conditions and the quality of life for women and their families; and guaranteeing the full exercise of their rights. Its creation was approved unanimously by the National Congress.

“Contributing to promoting cultural change, creating consciousness of true equality among men and women, in dignity, with regard for the specificity of each, and recognizing the need for cooperation in many functions which were previously considered to be the province of one or the other.”

**President Patricio Aylwin
At the promulgation of the law
creating Sernam. January 3, 1991**



The idea is that by 2010 – when the country celebrates its Bicentennial of Independence — inequalities or areas of discrimination will be erased or at least confronted. “There is still discrimination in Chilean society; we still have women who earn less than men for the same work. In Chilean society, we are still not taking full advantage of women’s abilities,” President Lagos has stated. “We must get used to the idea of constructing a society and a body of legislation that do not discriminate, as well as recognizing that certain tasks will be taken on jointly by men and women. We are working to achieve this, and we will continue to do so. A country becomes richer when it takes advantage of the 50% represented by the power of women.”

The new plan emphasizes the connections between improvements in gender relations and the elimination of other social inequities. The current focus reaches beyond basic aims, striving to achieve change in the country’s institutions, habits and attitudes. It is organized around six key issues: equality; women’s rights; public participation and decisionmaking; economic autonomy and escaping from poverty; quality of life and well-being; and a gender focus in public policies.

The new laws and justice

During the past 15 years, several laws which directly benefit women have been created or modified, most prominently the Domestic Violence, Filiation, Civil Marriage, and Sexual Harassment Laws. New judicial institutions have also been created, such as the Family Courts, which will commence operations in October of this year.

The legislature is currently considering a reform to the **Domestic Violence Law**, which is expected to be approved within the year. Enacted in 1994, the law was the country’s first initiative to provide victims of domestic violence, whether physical or psychological, with the opportunity to request protective measures. According to data maintained by Sernam, seven out of every ten women will become victims of some kind of violence in their homes.

FACTS

In 2000, a Ministers’ Council was created to focus on equality of opportunity among men and women. The body follows up on the gender equity commitments adopted by the country’s various public institutions.

In 2002, within its efforts to modernize public administration, Chile specifically included a focus on gender as an instrument of State management. This means that all public institutions must incorporate the particular needs of women into their programs and budgets, thus ensuring more equitable outcomes for men and women.

Although today “it has been overtaken by reality,” as Minister Pérez notes, the law “fulfilled its mission” in bringing the topic into the public view: “Ten years ago, domestic violence remained in the private sphere. Today it is a problem that is publicly recognized, and each day there is increasing awareness that abuse, whether verbal or physical, is not normal.”

The proposed reform broadens the number of protected persons; increases penalties for aggressors; describes and criminalizes habitual abuse within the family; and excludes the option of daytime parole for prisoners who have committed murder, assault or a sexual offense against a family member.



The 1998 **Filiation Law** put an end to the distinctions among legitimate, illegitimate, and natural children; today, all of them enjoy the same rights to support, inheritance, and legal representation. The law also permits the use of tests, including DNA analysis, to determine paternity. Later modifications have enhanced its provisions dealing with support payments and visitation rights.

On November 18, 2004, after more than nine years of consideration in Congress (starting in 1995), a new **Civil Matrimony Law** entered into force, replacing legislation from 1884 which had remained in effect for 120 years. The new law recognizes the importance of marriage and the family as the foundation of society while addressing the existing variety of matrimonial ruptures. As part of the New Family Law which the country hopes to implement during the coming years, this legislation reflects the transformation of Chilean society with its assumption that “attempts at marriage can fail, and Chileans deserve a second chance.”

Minister Cecilia Pérez describes it as “a good law for women, because it clearly and unambiguously establishes domestic violence as an immediate cause for divorce” and also contains “a complete section on economic compensation for spouses who have dedicated themselves exclusively to the work of caring for the couple’s children and home, when a marriage breaks up.” With this law, she affirms, the rights of women “have become better protected than before.”

The first law placing sanctions on **sexual harassment**, approved after 13 years of debate in Parliament, will be promulgated during the celebration of International Woman’s Day, on March 8. It adds sexual harassment to the Labor Code’s category of offenses providing cause for dismissal without the right to compensation. The law further requires employers to take measures to ensure a work environment characterized by dignity and respect among workers; guarantees privacy and protection for individuals who lodge a complaint; and includes indemnification for victims.

As of October 2005, 60 **Family Courts** will begin functioning in the country. At

FACTS

In 1994, the Carabineros police force created a special commissariat to address family issues.

By calling the Carabineros’ 149 telephone line, Chileans can report domestic violence, either publicly or anonymously if the caller is afraid to be identified.

Sernam’s Suggestion and Complaint Offices (OIR) offer women opportunities to learn about their rights, present requests, and receive free legal assistance.

On September 23, 1994, Chile enacted a Property Participation Law, which establishes a property-sharing system within marriage as an alternative to the concept of joint ownership. The law created the institution of family property and equalized the individual rights and duties arising from marriage among husbands and wives.

Sernam has set up 23 Centers for Comprehensive Services and Domestic Violence Prevention in the country’s 13 regions. There, services are provided to families that have been victimized or are at risk.



that time, 258 judges will be dedicated exclusively to these types of cases, an increase of 500% compared to the current number. Each court will also be supported by an interdisciplinary council composed of social workers, psychologists, and family counselors, who will advise the judges on cases involving adoption, domestic violence, custody, support payments, visitation rights, filiation, and divorce petitions.

The courts will carry out flexible and focused oral proceedings and will have access to a comprehensive mediation system, which, for the first time under Chilean law, will permit the cooperative and non-adversarial resolution of disputes. That is, before passing sentence, the court will attempt to resolve the complaint through a mediating body. The idea is to emphasize the search for agreement among the parties and lessen the emotional costs arising from these types of conflicts.

Mediation will be carried out on a voluntary basis and only with the agreement of both parties. However, it will not be allowed in cases of divorce, marital annulment, child abuse, and adoption.



More than 2,500 people participated in Sernam’s “Walk for Non-Violence” on November 25, 2004, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Government officials and prominent figures, including journalists, academics, singers, and former ministers Michelle Bachelet and Soledad Alvear, made public commitments against violence and issued a call for its eradication within society.

The labor force

Through special programs, training initiatives, legal reforms and extra benefits, the government has provided incentives to promote the incorporation of women into the labor force as well as self-employment. The greatest efforts have been undertaken in the area of equality of rights and opportunities.

A central aim for the government has been to reduce the gap in pay between men and women. "My commitment is that the salary inequality existing today between men and women who carry out the same tasks, with the same professional qualifications, is an area of discrimination that must be eliminated, and against which we must take concrete measures," President Lagos has stated.

The government hopes to enact a law addressing all forms of discrimination, which can provide recourse for women who feel economically disadvantaged, as well as by individuals who have experienced discrimination on the basis of age, social factors or physical characteristics.

Other initiatives, although lacking an explicit gender focus, have also affected Chilean women to a significant extent, including the country's labor reform measures and the creation of unemployment insurance (2002), which benefits both male and female employees.

Of course, the protection of maternity is another key objective. Since 1994, working women have been guaranteed a subsidy for maternal leave in an amount similar to their usual pay, as well as the right to on-site infant care. A proposal is currently being developed to make maternity leave more flexible and to permit fathers to devote more time to early child care.

"Women's participation in the work force must be facilitated through labor regimes that are compatible with the situations of real women, who in their great majority are heads of household."

**Ricardo Solari, Minister of Labor
February 14, 2005**

FACTS

During the past decade, the number of self-employed female workers grew by 86%, while small businesses expanded by 146%.

In 1998, employers were prohibited from requiring female workers to take a pregnancy test as a prerequisite for job promotions, mobility or continued employment.

According to data collected by the 2000 Casen Survey, 7% of households in which both parents work fall below the poverty line; if only the man works, this figure rises to 19%.

Women who work have an average of 13 years of schooling; that is, they are better-prepared than ever for the working world.

Child care

One of the most pressing problems related to women's access to the working world is the question of care for their small children. The government's initiatives in this area have aimed mainly at broadening preschool coverage and constructing new child care centers. In addition, it is "seeking other, more imaginative, and creative methods which will permit us to advance in this direction," as President Lagos has said.



Female seasonal workers

As Chilean exports continue to boom, the government is paying special attention to the *temporeras*: women who work in fruit and vegetable packing centers during the harvest and shipping seasons. For years, these workers, who represent 50% of the seasonal labor force in the agricultural sector, faced very harsh working conditions and few opportunities to improve their lives.

With the creation of the Rural Women's Roundtable, linked to the public services specializing in this area, a number of initiatives have been carried out, among which training has played an essential role. From 2002 to 2004, for example, some 14,500 women were trained in the safe use of pesticides.

Day care centers have also been created for seasonal workers' children, thanks to cooperative efforts among Sernam, various government institutions, and the private sector.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ In 1886, Chilean doctor Eloísa Díaz became the first woman in Latin America to obtain a medical degree.
- ★ Eight female weavers from the small town of Doñihue, in central Chile, worked ten hours a day for eight months to create the *chamantos* (traditional rural garments) which were presented as a gift to the leaders attending the 2004 APEC Summit in November.
- ★ Chilean astronomer María Teresa Ruiz discovered a “brown dwarf” — a star without fusion combustion — in the vicinity of the solar system. She was the first woman to receive the National Sciences Award, in 1997.



In the area of health care, after overcoming the basic issues of access, the country has moved to a “second level, with programs and legislation that are more tailored to women,” notes Minister Pérez. An example of this is the implementation of the Women’s Health Program – especially beneficial to low-income women – which offers mental and occupational health care as well as dental, and post-menopausal services.

Quality of life

Low-income female heads of household are particularly vulnerable, since in addition to their precarious living conditions, they often lack sufficient education to qualify for well-paid work that would allow them to support their children.

However, thanks to training programs promoted by the government, this situation has changed significantly.

Thousands of Chilean women have benefited from the new laws and programs implemented during the past 15 years, which have helped them raise their quality of life. The transformation experienced by society during these years reveals women with improved levels of training and higher expectations. Many public systems and services have had to implement reforms or restructure themselves to attend to women’s new needs. Health and education are the spheres in which the changes have been most obvious.



Without a doubt, the country’s family planning and birth control programs, which have served a million Chilean women to date, have been significant for their clients’ personal and professional development. Meanwhile, the law banning private health care institutions’ so-called “no-uterus plans” (lacking pregnancy coverage) has ended this form of economic and legal discrimination against women of childbearing age.

Concern for women is also reflected in the inclusion from the beginning of specifically feminine disorders such as breast cancer and cervical-uterine cancer within the AUGE Plan, a fundamental pillar of the country’s Health Reform. The AUGE Plan also ensures that the father or another trusted person can be present for births in public hospitals and guarantees access to anesthesia as well as comprehensive treatment of post-partum depression, if it arises.

The sphere of education is where the country’s objectives of equality have been most effectively met. According to the country’s most recent census (2002), 83.5% of women have completed elementary schooling (ages 6 to 13), compared to 79.5% of men. Although this percentage decreases for secondary education (ages 14 to 17), it continues to favor women: 56% to 52.5%.

Access to higher education among women remains a challenge, although significant

FACTS

In Chile, pregnant women and their children who are carriers of the AIDS virus receive tritherapy treatment at no cost.

In 2002, the dental and orthodontic program for female heads of household carried out by Sernam and the Ministry of Health received the award from the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most innovative primary care project.

By law, pregnant students cannot be expelled from school.



progress has been made. While only 7.7% of female students entered universities in 1992, by 2002 this figure had risen to 15.7%.

A further effective step was the incorporation of new issues into the Education Reform (1996), which are aimed at the development of specific skills among girls. Topics such as the prevention of domestic violence, non-violent conflict resolution, the promotion of female leadership and education for responsible sexuality already form part of the daily routine in Chilean schools.

A woman’s smile



Between 2000 and 2002, more than 27,000 low-income women regained a full set of teeth, thanks to an initiative led by Luisa Durán de Lagos, wife of the President. The “Woman’s Smile” program is an effort to combat these women’s loss of self-esteem and, above all, their difficulties in finding work and obtaining a fair salary.



Luisa Durán



In the Mapuche culture, those entrusted with matters of health have always been the machis. The traditional medicine of these women is now available to the

public, after a group of them decided to mix tradition and business. The pharmacy Herbolaria Mapuche Makelawén, with branches in Santiago and Temuco, offers a great variety of herbs, capsules, and drops prepared from extracts of medicinal plants.

Public life and politics

Although women live longer than men in 21st century Chile (78 years on average, compared to 72.3 for men), and they make up just over half of the population (50.73%), it has only been in recent years that women have taken on prominent roles in public life. As the recovery of democracy opened up new horizons for them, they moved into important public offices, both within the government and in the legislature.



Michelle Bachelet

When President Lagos took office in 2000, he named five female ministers and seven female undersecretaries to his Cabinet. Currently, there are three female ministers and eight female undersecretaries in office.

The presence of these women in government has led to far-reaching triumphs. In 2002, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Soledad Alvear was a key player in the achievement of three trade agreements: with the European Union, South Korea, and the United States. Michelle Bachelet was the first woman to be named Minister of Defense in Chile's history and

that of Latin America as a whole. Today, both are leading candidates for the Presidency of the Republic, according to surveys which rank the opposition candidate of the right, Joaquín Lavín, in third place.

The legislative branch has not been left behind. Currently, there are 17 female members of the National Congress, the highest number in Chile's history. In 2002, Adriana Muñoz became the first woman to assume the presidency of the Chamber of Deputies. She was replaced in 2003 by Isabel Allende, daughter of former President Salvador Allende.

The appointments of Supreme Court justice María Antonia Morales and National Prosecutor Mónica Maldonado led the feminine incursion into the highest spheres of the country's Judiciary. The promotion of the first female General of the Carabineros, Mireya Pérez, did the same within the Armed Forces.

Changes have also been evident within the private sector. Today it is no longer unusual to see women starting their own

When it comes time to elect the country's leaders, women appear to be more committed and responsible than men. In the most recent election – for mayors and council members, in October 2004 – women made up 52.26% of all registered voters and men 47.73%. In both elections, female voters outnumbered men by over 1% and cast fewer blank or nullified ballots.



Soledad Alvear

businesses or rising within large companies to high managerial posts that were earlier mainly reserved for men. Cutting-edge professional and technical training have transformed many women into new role models within society who are emulated by later generations.

March 6 marked the passing of one of the most emblematic women in Chilean politics: Gladys Marín. After a lifetime of fighting for her ideas, she was defeated by a brain tumor at the age of 63. She served as president of the Communist Party (CP), was elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1965, and was put forth by the CP as a presidential candidate. An ironclad opponent of the military regime, she lived underground and in exile, and was the first person to present a legal complaint against General Augusto Pinochet.

The government decreed two days of mourning in her honor. Her funeral, in the former National Congress building, brought together delegations from all parts of the political spectrum, who emphasized her "integrity," "courage" and "fighting tenacity."

President Lagos described her as "a woman who lived consistently with her ideas, and who struggled to create space for liberty and democracy."



FACTS

The governorship of the Metropolitan Region, which includes the country's capital, Santiago, was recently assumed by a woman: 37-year-old attorney Ximena Rincón, who is married with three children.

Another recent entry into office was the Undersecretary of Chiledeportes, attorney Macarena Carvallo, 32. She previously served as governor of the Cordillera province.

Between 2000 and 2004, numerous women occupied high public offices, comprising 17.6% of ministers, 26.6% of undersecretaries, 15.3% of regional governors and 27.4% of provincial governors.

In 2002, a National System of Gender Indicators was created, which is maintained jointly by Sernam and the National Statistics Institute (INE). The system makes available a database containing information distinguished by gender in various areas of interest.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Chile's first saint was Teresa de Los Andes, a Carmelite nun canonized by Pope John Paul II on March 21, 1993.
- ★ This year marks the 60th anniversary of Chilean poet Gabriela Mistral's Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ★ Mrs. Luisa Durán de Lagos and bestselling author Isabel Allende were named by the Danish government as ambassadors for the Hans Christian Andersen Bicentennial.

There are no longer fields “traditionally reserved for men,” such as mining, police operations, the military, the judiciary, politics, and top management positions in private enterprise.



Public policies have also contributed to women's progress. The main focal points have been promoting participation through initiatives to inform women about their rights; expanding access to decisionmaking opportunities; advancing female leadership; and facilitating the full exercise of women's rights.

Yet some issues still remain to be addressed. Minister Cecilia Pérez notes that it is now necessary to take “positive action in favor of women” within the political sphere, perhaps in the form of the “quota law” which is currently under public discussion.

The international agreements Chile has participated in all of the international conventions and conferences in favor of women. The most significant of these is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which only lacks ratification of an additional protocol.

Currently, in conjunction with the United Nations and organizations of civil society, Sernam is implementing a Tripartite Roundtable to address issues affecting women from a comprehensive point of view.

In 2004, the country was selected as one of the five Executive Committee members of the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). This opportunity will allow the country to participate in the most important regional forum for the protection of women's human rights and the promotion of gender equality in the social, political, economic, and cultural spheres.

Chile also holds a position on the board of ECLAC's Regional Conference on Women.

“Chile has concerned itself with taking the formulas the government has used to integrate women to the international forums,” stresses Minister Pérez. Another aim is to analyze the policies applied by other countries and learn from their experiences.

At the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which brought together representatives of some hundred governments at UN headquarters in New York to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Beijing Summit, Cecilia Pérez emphasized that this decade has coincided in Chile with a period of development of democratic rights throughout society, but especially for

FACTS

In December, two female second lieutenants from the Carabineros police force became officers of the guard at La Moneda Palace. They are the first women in the world to serve as guards for a Presidential Palace.

The Air Force is currently training female cadets as combat pilots, and its first generation of women officers graduated in December 2003.



This year, the Army will increase the number of female conscripts who are undertaking voluntary military service from 300 to 1,000.

Chilean professor and attorney Cecilia Medina is the only female judge on the Inter-American Human Rights Court. She previously served as president of the UN Human Rights Committee, where she worked to eliminate discrimination against women.

To commemorate International Women's Day, the government took to the countryside. Ministers, undersecretaries and heads of services traveled to the country's 13 regions, holding broad-based community meetings with local women. The main objective of this year's celebration is to emphasize the country's advances in the area of women's equality. The slogan says it all: “Chile needs the strength of women.”

women, who have integrated themselves “on a massive scale into the paid labor force, social participation, entrepreneurial initiatives, politics and cultural development.” ♦

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Javier Luis Egaña, Director, Communications and Culture Secretariat / EDITOR: María Paz del Río, Chief, International Press Department / TEXT: Aileen Cárcamo, International Press Department/ PHOTOGRAPHS: President's Office, Sernam, Chile Solidario, Jesús Inostroza, Gabinete de la señora Luisa Durán, Air Force, Codelco / TRANSLATION: Patricia Linderman
COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE SECRETARIAT / MINISTRY GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
depreint@segegob.cl / www.segegob.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl