Latin America and the Caribbean made significant progress in eliminating legal differences in women’s property rights and their ability to make legal decisions between 1960 and 2010—especially in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru. Over the past two years the following reforms occurred:

**Bolivia and Mexico** introduced paid paternity leave.

**Chile** introduced parental leave.

**Colombia and Venezuela** extended maternity leave.

**Jamaica** added an equality provision and a nondiscrimination clause to its Constitution.

**Mexico** raised the cap for small claims proceedings and prohibited employers from firing pregnant women.

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**About the Women, Business and the Law Report series:**

*Women, Business and the Law* measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women’s incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 143 economies, covering six areas: gaining access to institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court. The project provides a clear picture of gender gaps based on legal differences in each economy, but it does not capture the full extent of the gender gap, nor does it indicate the relative importance of each aspect covered. This year’s report was published by Bloomsbury Publishing. For more information, please visit: wbl.worldbank.org. Join us on Facebook: wbl.worldbank.org/Facebook

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The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and development expertise for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in pursuing the World Bank Group’s mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit www.worldbank.org, www.miga.org, and www.ifc.org.

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