



Women's Rights in the Americas: Closing the Implementation Gap

Special High-Level Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS

Tuesday February 20th 2018, 9:00-13:00

Hall of the Americas, OAS Headquarters (17th Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC)

In recent decades, the Americas has adopted countless binding legal agreements, political statements and declarations of commitment that provide strong and unequivocal policy and regulatory support to the protection and guarantee of women's rights. On paper, women enjoy a broad range of rights under conditions of equality with men.

But the persistent gap between women's rights on paper and women's rights in practice is one the biggest obstacles to sustainable development, effective democratic governance and human security.

This high level panel of key women leaders of the Americas will present some of the main achievements and challenges to the full enjoyment of women's rights. At the same time, it will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, established in 1928 by a group of pioneering American women who sought to establish women as subjects of rights and active agents of development and democracy.

Agenda

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| 8:30 | Registration and breakfast |
| 9:00 | <p>Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Juan Aníbal Barría, Chair of the Permanent Council of the OAS ▪ Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS ▪ Ana María Choquehuanca, President of the CIM |
| 9:30 | <p>High-level Panel: Closing the Implementation Gap on Women's Rights in the Americas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado, Vice-President and Minister of External Relations, Panama ▪ María Alejandra Vicuña, Vice-President of Ecuador ▪ Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría, Second Vice-President of Costa Rica ▪ Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women ▪ Elizabeth Odio Benito, Judge, Inter-American Court of Human Rights ▪ Otilia Lux de Coti, Indigenous Rights Activist, Guatemala ▪ Andrea Irrázaval Olavarría, General Manager, Clean Energy |
| 10:50 | Presentation of awards to the winning initiatives of the Call for Awards "ICTs to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women" |
| 11:00 | Open debate on Opportunities and Challenges to Women's Rights in the Americas |
| 1:00 | Closing |