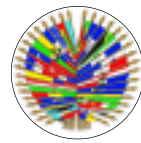


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FROM THE EDITOR

In the Inter-American Year of Women, we recognize that the quest for equality of rights and opportunities for women is a struggle that has changed human relationships around the world. While much progress has been made; violence, discrimination, and marginality continue to be obstacles that keep women in our hemisphere from participating fully and equally in the benefits of development.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is the greatest ecological catastrophe in the history of the United States, and dramatic images show the “black tide” devouring the coasts of the Gulf states. This disaster occurring at a time of increased global warming points again, and with greater urgency, to the need to wean ourselves from dependence on fossil fuels and diversify our energy options.

To what extent does modernity promise better urban living? Panama City’s historic downtown area is changing daily with new skyscrapers that attract international investors even as they erase some beloved traditions. From the bright lights of this city, we move to a story about ancient urban life in an article featuring the forgotten history of Chaco Canyon and the early indigenous cultures of North America. Meanwhile, in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, uncontrolled human settlement on several islands is threatening the environment.



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Cover: A brown pelican rests on a dock in Irish Bayou, near New Orleans, Louisiana, on the Gulf of Mexico

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This capital city is undergoing a massive transformation involving critical historic restoration and essential new development

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