

## **Parity, labor insertion, trafficking and sexual exploitation: Ministers and high authorities of the CIM set roadmap for regional women's agenda**



*Washington, June 21, 2023-* The Ministers and high-level gender authorities that make up the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) agreed to promote the creation of three new model laws on labor insertion, financial inclusion and equal representation.

These strategic issues were some of the main topics of conversation during the third regular meeting of the Executive Committee held within the framework of the 53rd OAS General Assembly. The meeting was chaired by the President of the CIM and Minister of Social Development of Panama, María Inés Castillo, and was attended by high-level authorities from Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

The Executive Secretary of the CIM, Alejandra Mora Mora, presented the report of activities and highlighted the need to raise women's voices to strengthen the equality agenda and promote inclusive and deliberative democracies. As a result, the Committee agreed, in keeping with the history of the CIM, to institutionalize a space for women leaders at the General Assembly to deepen dialogue and advocacy on women's rights, substantive equality and the enormous importance of continuing to promote women's leadership.

The CIM authorities stressed the importance of the CIM playing a more prominent role in the security agenda, promoting the incorporation of the gender perspective, especially in the area of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls in the region, in order to respond to the historical debt owed to women and girls in the region.

The Minister of Panama and President of the CIM, María Inés Castillo, pointed out the importance of making the CIM's institutional framework, and its relevance for strengthening the rights of women and girls in the Americas, visible.

This working meeting was also the occasion to formally introduce the new Minister of Women of Panama, Juana Herrera Araúz, and to offer the Executive Committee's solidarity and condolences to the Honduran people for the riot inside the Tamara prison, in which at least 46 women died.

Following this meeting, the Executive Secretary, together with the Ministers and high-level authorities of the Executive Committee, participated in the inauguration of the "Women Transforming the Americas Space" at the OAS building, with the objective of highlighting the historical contributions of women in the region.