

Honduras Joins Efforts with CIM/OAS to Promote Gender Equality in Diplomacy

- *Government authorities and the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday.*
- *The agreement establishes lines of work and technical assistance to integrate the equality and rights approach in the Honduran public administration and foreign service.*

Tegucigalpa, Honduras. July 25, 2024. The Government of Honduras and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) signed this Thursday a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes a framework for collaboration to identify and address existing inequality gaps in Honduran foreign policy.

In a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Foreign Minister, **Eduardo Enrique Reina**, signed the agreement together with the Secretary of State in the Office of Women's Affairs, **Doris García Paredes**, and the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, **Alejandra Mora Mora**, who is on an official visit to the country.

The initiative seeks to increase and strengthen women's participation and integrate the equality and rights approach into the Honduran public administration and foreign service. To this end, a joint working team will be created between the CIM/OAS and the Government of Honduras to carry out a comprehensive diagnosis and an action plan to address inequalities.

During the document signing ceremony at the Augusto C. Cuello Hall, Foreign Minister Enrique Reina García stressed the importance of bringing together the OAS General Secretariat, through the CIM, as the lead agency on gender issues, and the Secretariat of State, through the Office of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"It is no coincidence that we are gathered here today because gender equality is a cross-cutting axis of the first female President of Honduras, who has prioritized the role of Honduran women in our society as a key element in her administration," said Chancellor Reina.

The Secretary for Women's Affairs, Doris García Paredes, in her capacity as a member of the CIM/OAS Executive Committee, said: "This memorandum of understanding is essential because it will allow for better coordination of efforts between the institutional framework and multilateralism. In addition, the CIM Executive Secretariat will present the Inter-American Model Law on Care. This instrument seeks to support all OAS Member States and that we consider crucial for the elimination of structural barriers in the unequal distribution of gender".



Finally, the Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS, Alejandra Mora Mora, emphasized that this agreement is part of a broader effort by the multilateral organization to work with the countries to strengthen the agenda for equality in the region.

"This partnership also represents a shared commitment to justice and equality by strengthening women's participation in public administration and the foreign service. It is a decisive step towards a more inclusive and equitable diplomacy," Mora said.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is part of the project "Feminist Partnerships to Strengthen the Agenda for Gender Equality," implemented by the CIM/OAS with support from the Government of Canada. The initiative seeks to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women in the hemisphere by strengthening collaboration among key actors in defending women's rights, emphasizing the role of multilateralism and foreign policy.

Honduras is the second country in the region, after the Dominican Republic, to adopt a formal and systematic approach to address gender inequalities in the diplomatic sphere.